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HISTORY *of* WAR



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HEROES & MORE

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US Marine Corps vs Imperial Japan

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OF NAPOLEON**
FROM REVOLUTION
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THE RAJPUTS

INDIA'S SAMURAI

Meet the warrior clan
from Rajasthan

PLUS:

- ✦ Landsknecht infantry
- ✦ Siege of Fort Washington
- ✦ The Flying Tigers

RORKE'S DRIFT

The terrible truth behind Britain's Zulu reckoning



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Welcome

“We were hungry, dirty and frightened... I cannot describe in words how frightening it was”

– Ken Rogers, Vietnam War veteran

Reading the many accounts of resolute garrison defences, with hordes of enemy surrounding and little chance of victory, it’s amazing to learn just what the human mind, as well as the body, can endure.

In his first-hand account of the Vietnam War, 50 years after US ground operations began, veteran Ken Rogers’ experience shows just what a ruthless attack on the spirit war can have.

Likewise far from home, surrounded by thousands of enemy, with a real possibility of being overwhelmed entirely, the Rorke’s Drift garrison’s desperate position is the stuff of legend.

Though time (and a terrific 1960s film) have distorted the facts of these soldiers’ experiences somewhat, the sheer physicality of their struggle is a testament to human tenacity and bravery.



Tim

Tim Williamson
Deputy Editor



EMAIL

frontline@imagine-publishing.co.uk

CONTRIBUTORS



WILL LAWRENCE

Jumping at the chance to cover the real story behind one of his favourite films, this issue Will took to the plains of the Anglo-Zulu War in the legendary Battle of Rorke’s Drift. You won’t hear *Men of Harlech* ringing out across the lines here though...



JOSH BARNETT

A self-confessed petrol head, Josh not only takes you under the bonnet of the Vietnam War’s most-effective and iconic battlefield machines (p.30), but also gives a blow-by-blow account of the Battle of Iwo Jima and the US Marine Corps’ finest hour.



JACK GRIFFITHS

Never one to shy away from squeezing into tight spaces for the good of the magazine, this issue Jack squashed his 6’4” frame into the HMS Alliance, Britain’s last remaining WWII-era submarine (p.86). To recover, he tackled the grim origins Boko Haram (p.80).

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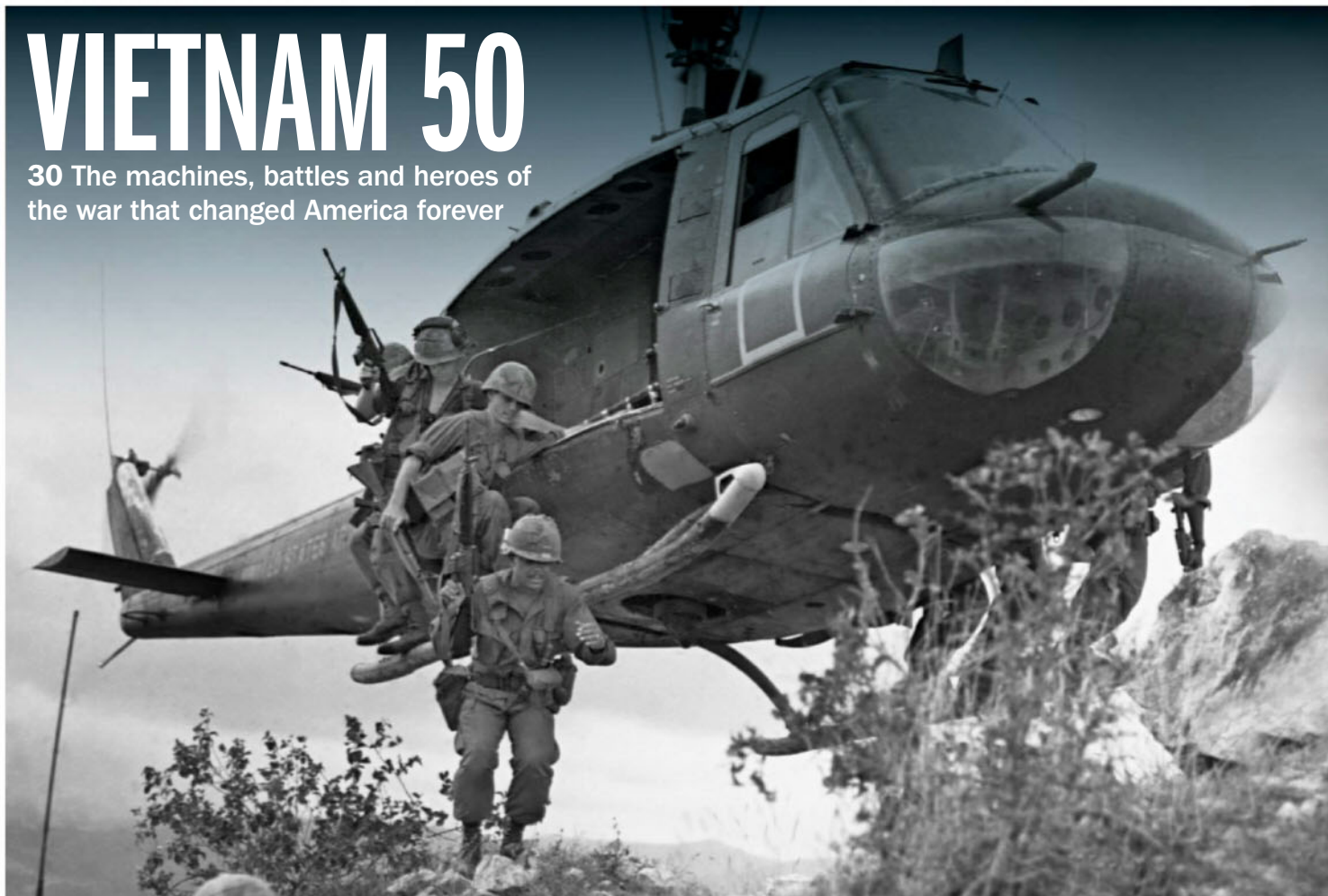
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A member of the 101st Airborne Brigade fires his M-16 into a suspected Viet Cong position

VIETNAM 50

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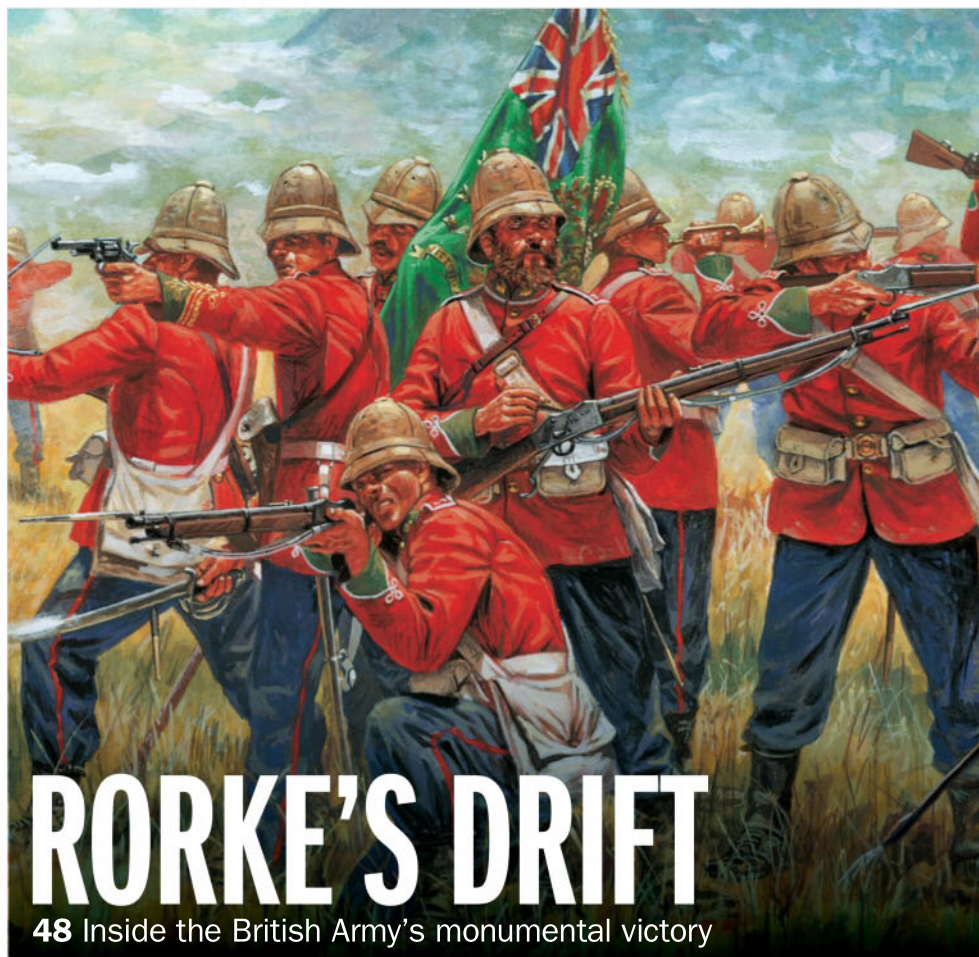
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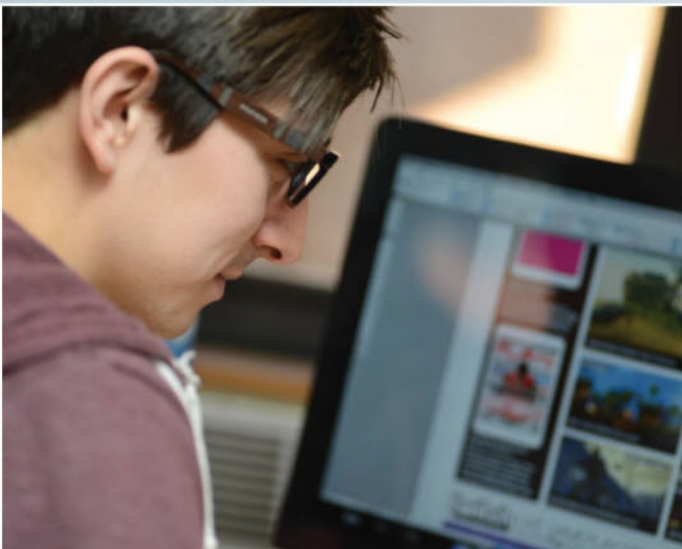


Working on History of War, it's great to learn something new every day. But we mainly love to hear what interests you most, be it Napoleon's battle strategy, or the inner workings of a Panzer II. By answering just a few questions, you could be selected to join our first-ever History of War panel – get involved!

Tim Williamson
Deputy Editor



Join our panel and help us make the magazine even better!





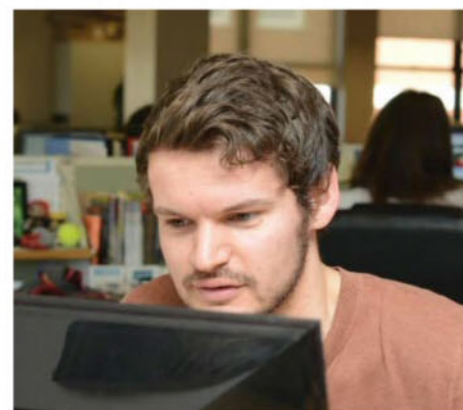
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WARⁱⁿ FOCUS

RAIN DOWN FIRE

Taken 1 January, 2008

Two British Gurkha soldiers crouch in Forward Operations Base (FOB) Delhi as they fire a mortar round at Taliban fighters in Helmand, Afghanistan. During his 2007-2008 deployment in the region, Prince Harry spent a time at the base, which was at the time just a few hundred yards from the frontline. The base became famous four years later when an Afghan teenager broke into the base's gym and shot dead three US Marines.

The incident cast serious doubts over the Afghan Police, who the attacker supposedly worked for.







WAR_{in} FOCUS

DRIVING OUT THE GERMANS

Taken 14 February, 1945

A sniper from the 5th Battalion, The Black Watch, 51st Highland Division, scans the surroundings from a ruined building in Gennep, Holland. After the failure of Hitler's Ardennes offensive, the Allies swiftly made plans to push the Germans back between the Rhine and Maas rivers – code-named Operation Veritable. Attached to the 1st Canadian Army, the 51st met tough resistance in the Dutch town of Gennep and the German town of Goch, as the Nazis were gradually pushed back over their own border.

WARⁱⁿ FOCUS

THE FIRST BATTLE OF USHANT, 1778

Painted c. 1848

27 July, 1778 saw the first naval combat between French and British fleets since the start of the American Revolutionary War. Armed with 100 guns and commanded by Admiral Augustus Keppel, the flagship of the British fleet was none other than HMS Victory, serving in her first ever battle. The indecisive outcome of the battle had huge political repercussions for the officers of both fleets.







WAR
in
FOCUS

GET 'EM BLUEDOG!

Taken 9 July, 1944

Pictured flying in formation over Eniwetok, the Marshall Islands, are 'Get 'Em Blue Dog' and 'Sunsetter', two US Marine Corps F4U-1A Corsairs. Earlier in the year, the Battle of Eniwetok had raged between US and Japanese forces. Though the Allies emerged victorious and the invasion of Eniwetok was completed, enemy resistance had proven tougher to break than first thought, with Japanese fortifications hampering US troops from making quick gains. Just two months after this photograph was taken, Japan surrendered.



MERCENARIES

Track the evolution of history's guns-for-hire across the centuries...

GAESATAE (GAELIC WARRIORS)

Founded: 225 BCE

Country: Gaul (France)

Spear-wielding warriors, the Gaesatae were hired by their Gaulish neighbours to the south to defend their land against the invading Roman Empire. They were young soldiers for hire without any allegiances, renowned for charging into battle naked, and were typical of mercenaries at the time in that they hailed from a specific region.



The Gaesatae were famous for their fearlessness in battle

The Condottieri evolved from mercenaries into a European power

CONDOTTIERI

Founded: 15th Century

Country: Italy

Early mercenary groups such as these evolved into powerful elites that held a monopoly over warfare and political power in the Italian city-states. They dictated their own terms to command unrivalled wages and upheld strict values of military discipline that made them powerful allies.

FLEMISH

Founded: 11th Century

Country: Flanders (Belgium)

Mercenary armies had evolved from ad-hoc arrangements based on a group's locally earned reputation into more permanent affairs, with countries like Flanders becoming notorious for the strength and availability of its soldiers-for-hire. They were often mistrusted by domestic armies for being foreign.



Alamy: Corbis



LANDSKNECHT

Founded: 1487

Country: Germany

Taking their cue from Swiss mercenaries, the Landsknecht also carried pikes into battle, and were known for a certain flair of costume. Much like the Condottieri in Italy, the Landsknecht became indispensable to war right the way across Europe for a century, becoming the de-facto choice for countries seeking infantry for hire.



Landsknecht were active in Germany during the 15th Century

BLACKWATER

Founded: 1997

Country: USA

Traditional rent-a-warrior mercenaries can still be found today, with the market dominated by powerful private military companies (PMCs) like Blackwater. Companies such as this have been around since the Sixties, and were active in the recent Middle Eastern conflicts, for which they've come under international scrutiny.



Blackwater gained notoriety for its actions in the Middle East

THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION

Founded: 1831

Country: France

Mercenary work was formalised throughout the 19th Century via the creation of Foreign Legions within many armies enabling nationals of other countries to serve in their host country's army. The French Foreign Legion, for example, started up around the same time that the Gurkhas began working with the British.



The French Foreign Legion quickly gained renown

5 Facts About MERCENARIES

CONTRACT KILLERS

The word 'Condottieri' stems from the Italian word for contract, 'condotta'. A condotta would specify the terms and value of service, and mercenary leaders became known as 'contractors'.

DEADLY BLACKWATER

Blackwater admitted to 17 US federal criminal charges for its controversial actions in Iraq, and has changed its name twice in order to escape the controversy. It has continued to be used as recently as in Ukraine in 2014.

PRIVATE EYES

The Pinkerton National Detective Agency was the largest private security company in the world at the end of the 19th Century, and was largely involved in widespread spying on corporate employees.

REVOLUTIONARY FOR HIRE

Hessians fought in almost every major battle of the American Revolutionary War. The war ultimately meant the end of Hesse-Kassel as the home of mercenaries, since the region never recovered its population or reputation.

BIG BOSS

British-based G4S is not only the largest private security company in the world; it is also one of the largest private sector employers in the world, with over 600,000 people on its staff.



British firm G4S is the largest private security company in the world

MERCENARY HEROES

The true stories behind the lives of these one-man armies

LACHHIMAN GURUNG

Years active: **1940-47**

Regiment/Force: **8th Gurkha Rifles**

Country: **Nepal**

Shortly after the fall of Rangoon, Japanese forces were spread throughout Burma, mainly into a few key areas: in the Shan hills, to the east of the river Sittang, and on both banks of the river Irrawaddy. British forces continued to advance, and the 8th Gurkha Rifles, of the 4th Battalion, were stationed near Naung Laing off the west bank of the Irrawaddy, where they had created a blockade to cut off the Japanese forces. At 1.20am on 13 May 1945, as Rifleman Lachhiman Gurung was on watch, a surprise attack was launched on their position by around 200 Japanese soldiers.

Gurung's location was under the heaviest assault, and the actions of this heroic Gurkha soldier later gained him a Victoria Cross. A grenade landed in front of Gurung at one point and, instinctively, he snatched it up and threw it back out to the enemy. A second landed almost immediately, which again he tossed back, but the third grenade that landed in

the trench had been cooked for a few seconds longer, and exploded in Gurung's hand.

Severely wounded, with a broken right arm and no remaining fingers, Gurung looked up to see the Japanese forming to take advantage of the faltering defence with an all-out rush.

Firing and reloading with his left hand, Gurung held off the attacking force in both the initial charge and the subsequent waves of attacks that followed until dawn. Gurung's position, which he held alone after his comrades had fallen, was decisive ground in the battle – 87 dead were counted in the immediate area, with 31 surrounding Gurung's trench. His courage inspired his comrades to similar feats of bravery, and every Japanese attack in the area over the next few days was repulsed.



The actions of Lachhiman Gurung in Burma won him the Victoria Cross

XENOPHON

Years active: **401-399 BC**

Regiment/Force: **The Ten Thousand**

Country: **Greece**

A mercenary historian, Xenophon recorded the long adventure of a 10,000-strong mercenary band as they marched to seize the Persian throne from Artaxerxes II for his brother Cyrus the Younger. Composed of a wide range of mostly Greek units, The Ten Thousand might have won the final battle against Artaxerxes on the banks of the river Euphrates near present-day Baghdad had their leader Cyrus not fallen. Leaderless, they lost the Battle of Cunaxa, and elected a new group of leaders, among who was the writer Xenophon. He wrote his most famous work, *Anabasis*, during this time, which tells of The Ten Thousand's long march home to Greece following the death of Cyrus. Their attempts to find allies were met with failure, and eventually the senior officers were killed in a betrayal that led to another round of leadership re-elections. When they finally made it to the Black Sea, the remaining thousands gratefully cried out, "The Sea! The Sea!"



CLAIRE CHENNAULT

Years active: 1917-45
Regiment/Force: **The Flying Tigers**
Country: **USA**

A heavy smoker, Chennault's bronchitis contributed to poor health, and eventually led to his resignation from the US Air Corp in 1937. His long career began in World War I and led to him becoming a successful aviation instructor.

Chennault travelled to China to work with a volunteer group of Americans who were training Chinese pilots, and later became involved in a State-sponsored mission, part of a wider support package, to provide China with an American Volunteer Group of pilots, instructors and mechanics.

Giving himself the title of colonel, Chennault assembled a rag-tag group of 300 American mercenaries and engaged in dogfights with scores of Japanese squadrons. They were always outgunned due to a general lack of resources, but displayed exemplary skill and unusual, effective tactics. Their victories were consistent enough to win them the nickname 'The Flying Tigers' as news of their battles reached the US in the wake of Pearl Harbor, and to get them on the cover of *Time* magazine.



SIR JOHN HAWKWOOD

Years active: 1363-94
Regiment/Force: **The White Company**
Country: **England**



One of the most accomplished military commanders of the Middle Ages, Hawkwood made his name as leader of The White Company, and fought vigorously right the way across Italy at a time when it was both the most powerful and most divided region in Europe. Hawkwood became leader of the 'company of adventure' in 1363, and it was known for being highly organised with accounting work and lawyers to track its various fees, ransoms and bribes, as well as its train of civilian workers.

When in between major campaigns for the warring Italian city-states, the Company would intimidate towns into giving up their spoils by simply surrounding them and threatening to plunder. Over the years, they worked for almost every major city-state – Florence, Milan, Perugia, Siena and more – as well as both for and against the Pope, making a reputation for their light equipment and quick strikes.

ROGER DE FLOR

Years active: 1303-05
Regiment/Force: **The Catalan Grand Company**
Country: **Italy**

The Catalan Grand Company was formed out of Roger de Flor's early band of mercenaries. They were veterans of the war in Sicily, where they were initially employed to defend the island, but later cut loose, as Sicily had no reason to keep them on after peace was declared.

Seeking fortune in the east, de Flor led the Company to fight the Ottoman Empire in Turkey for the Byzantines, and became embroiled in controversy. His men became known for their wanton pillaging, and were seen as little better than thugs. De Flor married into power, and was the subject of various machinations to remove it from him. Eventually, he was assassinated by a rival group of mercenaries who had been employed by the Byzantine emperor, and the Company was subject to a vicious attack that decimated its numbers. Undeterred, they went on to make a play for power themselves, and eventually ran a state.



Right: Chennault's exploits with the Flying Tigers were heavily chronicled in the USA

KASPAR RÖIST

Years active: 1524-27
Regiment/Force: **The Swiss Guard**
Country: **Switzerland**

After his father's death in 1524, Captain Röist assumed command of the Swiss Guard, and led them through one of the most politically unstable periods in living memory. The Imperial Army of the Holy Roman Emperor was in full-blown mutiny, having not been paid after defeating a French army in Italy, and was marching on Rome in order to loot all its wealth.

Along with a condottieri named Renzo di Ceri, who led a force of 5,000 militia, Röist led 189 Papal Swiss Guards against the marauding mercenaries, trying to hold them off for as long as possible while Pope Clement VII fled to safety. They made their last stand inside a cemetery at the Vatican, and were utterly defeated, with Röist being killed in front of his wife. Around 40 of the Guard managed to escape, however, and they continued to harry at the forces pursuing the Pope long after their commander fell.



HARALD HARDRADA

Years active: 1035-42
Regiment/Force: **The Varangian Guard**
Country: **Norway**

Having battled for the Norwegian throne since he was a teenager, Harald Hardrada would go on to become the king of Norway, and later ally himself with Tostig Godwinson, King Harold Godwinson's brother, and invade the north of England. Before then, he was a sword for hire in the Varangian Guard, the Byzantine Empire's foreign army unit. Originally comprising mostly Kievan Rus (now Ukrainian), the Varangian Guard later came to be populated by Scandinavian warriors like Hardrada, and was deployed throughout the Byzantine Empire.

Hardrada made his fortune waging campaigns everywhere, from Sicily to Jerusalem, and then used that capital to fund his campaign to become king of Norway. At first he shared his riches in an uneasy co-rule with Magnus Olafsson over Norway, but he later went on to rule a unified Norway alone, famously invading England in 1066, where he fell at Stamford Bridge.



Hardrada's antics as a mercenary soldier are lesser known

BATTLE OF FORT WASHINGTON

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 1776

With the Continental Army reeling, the British and their German mercenary allies began an assault on the gateway to the Hudson River: Fort Washington

After the inconclusive Battle of the White Plains, George Washington and his Continental Army had retreated to New Jersey. The British, bolstered in strength by a band of 3,000 German Hessian mercenaries, were ready for an all-out assault on Fort Washington. Aware of the coming storm, George Washington wisely made his escape.

However, Colonel Robert Magaw stood firm within the fortifications, determined to deny the British and the Royal Navy access to the Hudson River. The Hessians had served as auxiliaries in the British Army for decades and their role as an elite force was about to be tested yet again.

1 RETREAT TO THE FORT

After fighting with conviction at the Battle of the White Plains, the Hessian mercenaries once again join the 8,000-strong British Army for the coming assault on Fort Washington. The fort is guarded by 3,000 Americans ready and waiting for the attack.

2 A DESERTER REVEALS ALL

An American deserter called William Demont reveals the layout of the fort to the British, including its strengths and weaknesses. Armed with this knowledge, the Hessians take up position in the south-east of the stronghold and await the signal to attack.

3 ARTILLERY BARRAGE AND ENCIRCLEMENT

The fort is a five-sided earthwork with 34 great guns, so it has to be tackled with great caution. The fort soon becomes surrounded overnight from the west, south and east by field guns, mortars and howitzers.

4 NO SURRENDER!

Meanwhile, within the fort the American camp is debating whether or not to concede defeat. George Washington may have retreated to Fort Lee, but Colonel Robert Magaw refuses to surrender and fully believes the fort will stand firm.

5 TWILIGHT ADVANCE

The Hessians, led by General Wilhelm Von Knyphausen and Colonel Johann Rall, cross the river in some small boats

under the protective cover of darkness. They lie covertly in wait on the shoreline until the early hours of the morning eventually arrive.

6 THE RISING TIDE

The assault is delayed as the Hessians are forced to wait for the right tide to let them move further. They are stuck in the Kingsbridge area of Manhattan for a number of hours until the next day.

7 HESSIAN LANDING IN MANHATTAN

On the morning of Saturday 16 November, Von Knyphausen's force finally lands and engages the Continentals. The initial exchanges are purely artillery based as the mercenaries are supported by fire from the HMS Pearl.

8 KNYPHAUSEN TAKES THE OFFENSIVE

At midday the Hessians are joined on the eastern flank by two divisions of British forces. As the pincer movement tightens on the fort, the defensive guns are brought down and the walls scaled. Upon seeing the Hessians swarm into the fortress, Magaw surrenders.

9 RETREAT TO DELAWARE

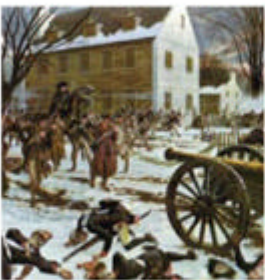
3,000 American soldiers are captured along with 43 cannons and supplies. The rest of the Continental Army retreats to Fort Lee and Delaware to fight another day. 320 Hessians have died in the battle, as they proved their worth once again.

“COLONEL ROBERT MAGAW STOOD FIRM WITHIN THE FORTIFICATIONS, DETERMINED TO DENY THE BRITISH AND THE ROYAL NAVY ACCESS TO THE HUDSON RIVER”

HESSIANS IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

BATTLE OF TRENTON 26 DECEMBER, 1776

This battle was a resounding victory for the Patriots, who caught the Hessian forces off-guard. Hero of Fort Washington, Colonel Rall, was killed and 1,000 of the mercenaries were captured.



BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND 27 AUGUST, 1776

The British began the war with a streak of victories. One of the most important was Long Island where they gained control of New York. Thousands of Hessians fought yet only five were killed.



BATTLE OF WHITE PLAINS 28 OCTOBER, 1776

The New York and New Jersey campaign saw a lot of bitter fighting early on in the war. Although considered a draw, the Hessians proved their worth again in an advance on Chatterton's Hill.

BATTLE OF RED BANK 22 OCTOBER, 1777

Fuelled by the anger over Trenton, a Hessian force was sent to capture Fort Mercer on the Delaware River. The huge ramparts of the fort withstood the attack and the German mercenaries were routed.



SIEGE OF YORKTOWN SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 19, 1781

The final battle of the war. Despite the loss, the Hessian Jaegers used tactics that would be replicated by the new British regiments of riflemen that were formed after the war.







BRITISH MERCENARIES

Dr Alastair Massie explains how guns for hire helped the Empire

HOW HAS BRITAIN USED MERCENARIES TO SUPPLEMENT ITS ARMIES THROUGHOUT HISTORY? WHY WERE THEY HIRED?

Britain had lots of money but not enough men. By hiring a mercenary from abroad you save one of your own population and deny that man from the enemy. If you didn't hire him, the opposition might have. The golden age of mercenary activity was in the 14th and 15th Centuries. They were usually soldiers who had been discharged and were at a loose end, so they hired themselves out and fought for the highest bidder.

IN THE CRIMEAN WAR, HOW DID THE BRITISH GERMAN LEGION CONTRIBUTE TO THE BRITISH FORCES ON THE FRONTLINE?

We didn't have enough troops of our own in the Crimean War so we did what we'd done for quite a few years before, and that was hire Germans. It was an auxiliary force and wasn't part of the British army but the regiment had both British and German officers. The British also gave money to the Turks to raise troops who had British officers.

WAS THERE A PARTICULAR WAR OR BATTLE IN CRIMEA WHERE THE MERCENARIES TURNED THE TIDE OF THE CONFLICT?

It was a bit of a damp squib. The mercenaries never had time to cross swords with the enemy. The mercenaries raised in the Crimea never actually got to see combat. They were brought over to Britain for training and then they were sent to Turkey but the war was finished before they could actually get into the Crimea.

DID MERCENARIES ALWAYS GET MONEY IN RETURN OR WERE THEY EVEN GIVEN LAND OR OTHER INCENTIVES?

There were other ways to pay mercenaries but really they wanted money. If they didn't get paid they were at risk of becoming freebooters and wreaking havoc. There has been some adverse public reaction to Britain's recruitment of Germans, so members of the German Legion who didn't want to return to Germany after the war were given land settlement rights in South Africa. One settlement was named after Major General Richard von Stutterheim, the Legion's leader.

DID THE BRITISH USE ANY OTHER MERCENARY FORCES IN THE WAR?

The Swiss Legion and the German Legion are the ones we got furthest with. They were raised properly and brought back to Britain for training and then they were sent out to the near east. They didn't get any further than Turkey. We raised an Italian legion but although that was quite advanced it was still in Italy by the time the war finished so we didn't proceed with it.

WHO ARE THE MOST FAMOUS MERCENARIES FROM THE CRIMEAN WAR?

None of them had an opportunity to make a reputation for themselves because they never got into fighting so there are no notable commanders. Lord Henry Percy was a British officer in the grenadier guards who had a famously abrasive manner. He was put in charge of the

“YOU MIGHT SAY THAT MERCENARIES ARE ENJOYING A COMEBACK. YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AT THE ROLE OF PRIVATE MERCENARY COMPANIES IN IRAQ”

British Italian Legion. The project became mired in bureaucracy and suffered a lack of funds and eventually went redundant.

WHAT WAS THEIR CHAIN OF COMMAND AND WHO DID MERCENARIES REPORT TO IN THE ARMY'S HIERARCHY?

They reported to the British War Office. They were raised by an act of parliament called the Foreign Enlistment Act and in that respect they answered to the British command structure. British officers were sent over to take command and both the Germans and Swiss Legions camped together during their training. The problem was that they fell out and were fighting each other and had to be separated.

DID THEY HAVE A SIGNATURE WEAPON?

No, they were issued with the same weapons as the British army had which was the Minié Enfield rifle. Other mercenary groups in history had signature weapons, like the Swiss Pikemen of the last 15th and early 16th Century. They fought with extremely long lances and in their day really were terrifying.

WAS THE RECRUITMENT OF MERCENARIES POPULAR WITH THE REST OF THE ARMY?

It was seen as a necessity. The friction in their camp life might have led to problems, but the British army in the Crimea knew they badly needed reinforcements. They felt inferior to the French who had so many more men and on that basis they would have welcomed an accretion of strength, whoever it came from. They were disparaging about the Turks hired by the British but the Germans and the Swiss were more welcome.

HOW DID THE ROLE OF THE MERCENARY CHANGE THROUGHOUT DIFFERENT ERAS OF THE BRITISH ARMY?

Mercenaries were used regularly in the 15th Century, and by the

1700s men would withdraw from one side and turn over to the other side, then come back again. That kind of thing was very normal. Hiring mercenaries and trying to outbid other armies was what we had done for many years, but by the middle of the 19th Century hiring mercenaries was rather archaic and it did lead to some problems.

WERE BRITISH MERCENARY FORCES EVER DISLOYAL AND TURN AGAINST THEIR EMPLOYERS DUE TO DISPUTE OR A BETTER OFFER FROM ANOTHER RIVAL?

John Hawkwood led the so-called White Company. He fought in the Hundred Years War for England against the French, but when there was a truce in 1360 he went to Italy and gathered men around him who were freebooters and would fight for the highest bidder. He wasn't particularly well educated but he was very astute and he had enough gumption to be sufficiently trustworthy to be the preferred mercenary in late 14th Century Italy.

ARE MERCENARY FORCES USED TODAY AND IF SO, IN WHAT CAPACITY?

You might say that mercenaries are enjoying a comeback. You only have to look at the role of private mercenary companies in Iraq. Once the Americans withdrew from Iraq, the protection of their ongoing interests was left to all these private companies. Whether they can be considered mercenaries or not is debated before the UN even now.

WHAT WAS THE BEST MERCENARY FORCE FOR BRITAIN IN HISTORY?

I would have to say the Swiss Pikemen, they were mercenaries par excellence. They steamrollered the opposition with their pikes and showed no mercy and were truly ferocious. They didn't take any prisoners and they were really feared.

The Crimean War was a bloody conflict but was over before many of the mercenaries in the British army were required





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CASEMATE | uk

HEAD TO HEAD

The foreign fighters of two European countries go head to head in a rivalry spanning two centuries of global history

THE BRIGADE OF GURKHAS

YEARS IN OPERATION: 200

LOYALTY: BRITISH EMPIRE / UNITED KINGDOM

VALUES

★ Regarded for their loyalty and courage, Gurkhas were originally formed into regiments for the East India Company for these qualities. The regiment's motto, 'Better to die than live a coward' is taken very literally by every Gurkha.

SKILL

★ As well as the Royal Gurkha Rifles, there have been Engineers and Signals units among the Brigade of Gurkhas for years. Their steadfastness in the heat of battle has earned them a fierce reputation around the world.

EQUIPMENT

★ Being part of the British Army, the Gurkhas have traditionally been well equipped with modern weaponry, as well as their customary kukri knives, which are seen on the Royal Gurkha Rifles cap badges.

TACTICS

★ Often acting as the critical element in both defensive and more-covert operations, the Brigade of Gurkhas has distinguished itself as a special forces unit of the British Army well versed in modern combat techniques.

ACHIEVEMENTS

★ Gurkhas have been awarded many battle honours over the years, including over 20 Victoria Crosses for their actions in key battles and single-handed feats of bravery.

TOTAL



BORN FOR WARFARE

With the Gurkhas, there are certain characteristics, such as tenacity and bravery in battle, that seem as much a genetic trait as they do ones developed and honed through training. In this regard, they are like the mercenary groups of the Medieval and Early Modern periods – groups of people from a particular geographical area with a talent for battle – but the Brigade of Gurkhas itself is a further subset of the naturally gifted Gurkha Valley people, so strong military values are endemic to them. The French Foreign Legion, on the other hand, while formed of a formidable band of brothers and adhering to a strict code of honour, is open to any person of any country, and by that nature has an inherently less ingrained set of shared values.

Below Gurkhas practise trench bombing using live ammunition in Merville, France, during the First World War





THE FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION

YEARS IN OPERATION: 184

LOYALTY: THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

The French Foreign Legion has often been portrayed as a refuge for lost souls seeking a new life of comradeship and adventure

VALUES



Much of life in the Legion is focused around building comradeship and morale, as well as fostering a deep sense of service. A strict code of honour must be observed that values the enemy, the dead and the battle itself.

SKILL



First being used to protect and expand the French Empire, the French Foreign Legion garnered a reputation as an elite infantry unit, later developing a new role as a French rapid-deployment force worldwide.

EQUIPMENT



Undergoing the harshest training in the world and well-known for their endurance of the north African desert, each legionnaire carries his own combat knife, the Camillus, in addition to standard French Army gear.

TACTICS



The French Foreign Legion has been used in the past as a support regiment for other parts of the French Army in large battles, and more recently on its own as an ever-ready unit for global conflicts as they emerge.

ACHIEVEMENTS



The French Foreign Legion played a key role in the Battle of Verdun in World War I, and is perhaps most famous for its involvement in the north African campaign of World War II.

TOTAL



LOYAL SERVICE

The French Foreign Legion comprised of expert combat engineers and was well known for its big-bearded sappers, who were retained by the French Army long after they had been phased out elsewhere. The Legion was often used in a support capacity in north African and Middle Eastern campaigns, before it all but broke up following the Algerian War of Independence, having its heavy weaponry removed and role redefined as an international intervention unit. Conversely, the Gurkhas have loyally served the British Army in much the same capacity over the years. Successfully undertaking highly dangerous missions at the centre of international conflicts, Gurkhas can be found spearheading assaults and sneak-attacking enemy positions. Their loyalty to the last man in battle makes them a force to be reckoned with.

“A strict code of honour must be honoured that values the enemy, the dead and the battle itself”

MERCENARIES OF THE WORLD

Swords, axes and guns for hire throughout the ages

1 THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM 1099

Genoese crossbowmen under the lead of merchant and mercenary captain Guglielmo Embriaco make a name for themselves at the walls of Jerusalem as they build the siege towers that win the battle.



Gallowglass

Operating: 13th – 17th Century

Speciality: Descended from Viking settlers who settled in Scotland, the Gallowglasses were the 'young foreign warriors' who fought in Ireland and the Scottish Wars of Independence.

Location: Scotland

Housecarls

Operating: 11th – 12th Century

Speciality: Originally Norse servants, royal housecarls were used in Anglo-Saxon England as household troops paid for with a special tax. They fought for King Harold in 1066.

Location: England

Flemings

Operating: 11th – 12th Century

Speciality: An important source of independent military power from the Battle of Hastings, where Flemish mercenaries made up a third of the Norman army, to the civil wars of the Anarchy.

Location: Flanders (Belgium)

French Foreign Legion

Operating: 1831 – present

Speciality: Formed to enable foreign nationals to serve in the French Army, the Legion defended the French colonial empire throughout the 19th Century.

Location: France

Academi (Blackwater)

Operating: 1997 – present

Speciality: Private military company that was used in many decisive battles in the recent Middle Eastern wars, and has changed its name twice since Blackwater came under scrutiny.

Location: USA

The Catalan Grand Company

Operating: 1303-88

Speciality: Former employees of the Byzantine Empire, the Catalan Grand Company ruled Athens for years following a betrayal by its leaders over payment and the Company's subsequent revenge.

Location: Italy

The Great Company

Operating: 1342-63

Speciality: Fighting in Italy under the leadership of Werner von Urslingen, The Great Company set the pattern for the widespread rise of mercenary companies that followed.

Location: Italy

Genoese crossbowmen

Operating: 12th – 16th Century

Speciality: Renowned ranged support unit used across Europe from the Crusades until well after guns replaced traditional archers and crossbowmen.

Location: Genoa, Italy

2 THE SIEGE OF DELHI

DELHI, INDIA JUNE – SEPTEMBER 1857

Distinguished members of the East India Company's army, the 2nd Gurkhas regiment, holds the key position of Hindu Rao's house for three months during the Indian Mutiny.

3 THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

ENGLAND 1066

Harold's housecarls are decisive in the Battle of Stamford Bridge against Hardrada, but they're not enough to beat William the Conqueror's massive fleet from Normandy.



5 OPERATION DRAGON ROUGE

STANLEYVILLE, REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 1964

Major 'Mad' Mike Hoare, an Irish mercenary leader, leads five Commandos in a hostage rescue mission that ends the Simba Rebellion and almost the Congo Crisis too.

6 THE BATTLE OF HALMYROS

GREECE 1311

After the Duke of Athens refused to pay the Catalan Grand Company for attacking Thessaly, the Company is striking back. Despite overwhelming odds, they'll win and then rule that part of Greece for over 60 years.

Swiss Mercenaries

Operating: 13th – 19th Century

Speciality: Pikemen feared and bought across Europe until the 1874 amendment to the Swiss Constitution preventing foreign hire, with the exception of the Vatican Swiss Guard.

Location: Switzerland

Sohei

Operating: 12th – 16th C

Speciality: The Sohei (warrior monks) were used by warring clans throughout the Genpai war, and temples like Enryakuji were a powerful political force in feudal Japan.

Location: Japan

2

Gurkhas

Operating: 1815 – present

Speciality: Serving the British Army, originally in India (under the East India Company) and later worldwide.

Location: Gorkha, Nepal

4 THE BATTLE OF THE GRANICUS

GRANICUS RIVER, TURKEY 334 BCE

In his first major conflict with the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great crushes the Persian forces, despite the fact they've been bolstered by mercenaries like those under Memnon of Rhodes' command.

7 BATTLE OF CRÉCY

FRANCE 1346

Genoese crossbowmen make up about a fifth of the huge French forces attacking the Black Prince. The Englishmen fire back, however, with a cannon and longbows.



WEAPONS OF A LANDSKNECHT MERCENARY

The Landsknechts were a feared and specialised mercenary force hired by emperors from all across Europe to fight their wars



The battlefields of 16th Century Europe were dominated by the universally used mercenaries, the Landsknechts. Originating from central Europe, their tactics of pike-and-shot formations proved revolutionary on the battlefield.

The pike square infantry tactic was almost impenetrable, so the Landsknecht soldiers were hired to help fight various conflicts, such as the Italian Wars and the infamous 1527 Sacking of Rome.

The Landsknechts were fierce and determined fighters who were called upon from all corners of Europe to fight in exchange for profit

ARQUEBUS

Ammunition: Round shot

Role: Pierce heavy armour

Arquebusiers used some of the first matchlock firearms on the European battlefield. Inaccurate due to their smoothbore barrels and basic sights, they were initially used sparingly, but as technology advanced they evolved into muskets, ushering in a new type of warfare.

FIRING MECHANISM

To fire, the arquebus required a lit match that would trigger the complicated matchlock mechanism. This system was later replaced by the wheel-lock system.

MODERN WARFARE

The arquebus was very inefficient and difficult to use. However, it provided the template for muskets and rifles, which would come to dominate warfare in later centuries.



PIKE

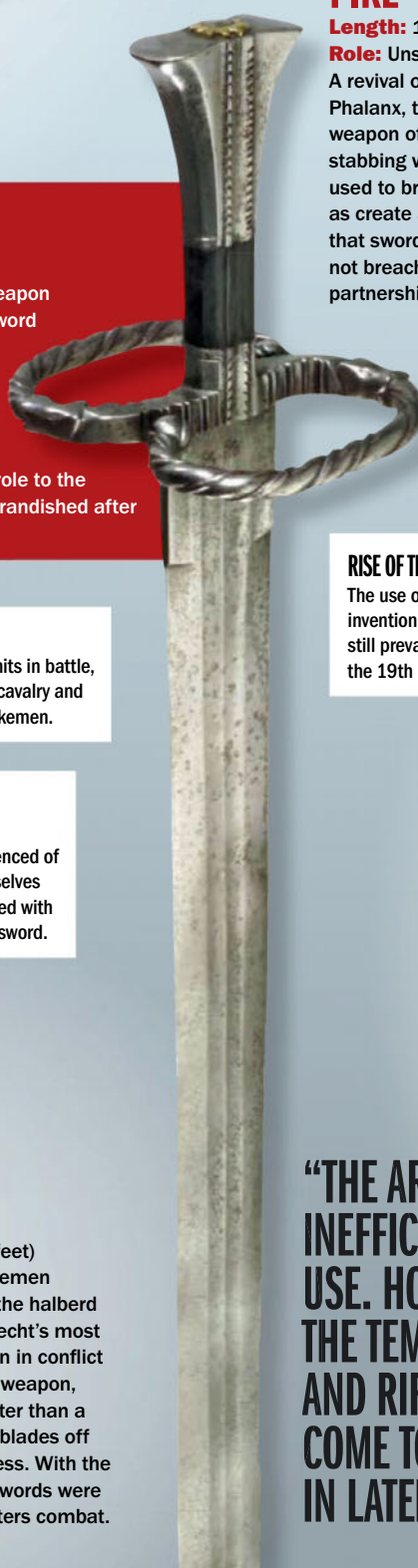
Length: 1.8-2.4m (6-8 feet)

Role: Unsaddle enemy cavalry

A revival of the ancient Greek Phalanx, the pike was the classic weapon of the Landsknecht. As long stabbing weapons, they could be used to bring cavalry down, as well as create a compact pike square that swordsmen and axemen could not breach. Pikes worked well in partnership with the arquebus.

TWO-HANDED

The pikes were so heavy that they had to be wielded with two hands. If a pike was lost, the Landsknecht would carry a secondary dagger or mace.



KATZBALGER

Length: 94.2cm (37.1 inches)

Role: Short-bladed secondary weapon

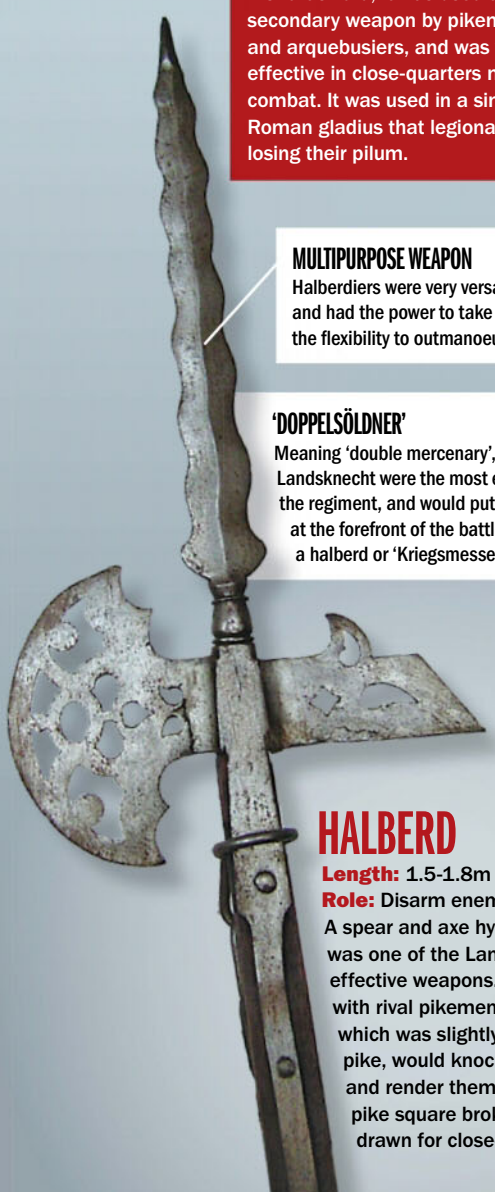
The Katzbalger was the classic sword of the Landsknecht mercenary. A short sword, it was used as a secondary weapon by pikemen and arquebusiers, and was very effective in close-quarters melee combat. It was used in a similar role to the Roman gladius that legionaries brandished after losing their pilum.

MULTIPURPOSE WEAPON

Halberdiers were very versatile units in battle, and had the power to take down cavalry and the flexibility to outmanoeuvre pikemen.

'DOPPELSÖLDNER'

Meaning 'double mercenary', these Landsknecht were the most experienced of the regiment, and would put themselves at the forefront of the battle, armed with a halberd or 'Kriegsmesser' longsword.



HALBERD

Length: 1.5-1.8m (5-6 feet)

Role: Disarm enemy pikemen

A spear and axe hybrid, the halberd was one of the Landsknecht's most effective weapons. When in conflict with rival pikemen, this weapon, which was slightly shorter than a pike, would knock the blades off and render them useless. With the pike square broken, swords were drawn for close-quarters combat.

RISE OF THE FIREARM

The use of pikes dwindled after the invention of the musket, but they were still prevalent in warfare right up until the 19th Century.



"THE ARQUEBUS WAS VERY INEFFICIENT AND DIFFICULT TO USE. HOWEVER, IT PROVIDED THE TEMPLATE FOR MUSKETS AND RIFLES, WHICH WOULD COME TO DOMINATE WARFARE IN LATER CENTURIES"



'1965 -2015

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS, JOSH BARNETT & MATTHEW MOSS

VIETNAM

The machines, weapons, battles and heroes of this most iconic conflict

The Second Indochina War, better known in the West as The Vietnam War, affected the lives of millions, and whole generations on both sides of the conflict were changed forever by the horrors experienced. The jungles, skies and rivers of Vietnam became just the latest battleground in the seemingly unending fight against the perceived global threat of Communism.

With the military might of one of the world's superpowers clashing with highly effective guerilla tactics, the war featured some of the deadliest weapons, the most effective hardware and it saw some of the most unbelievable feats of human bravery. 50 years after US ground operations began, we take a look at 50 of the machines, battles and heroes of this devastating war.

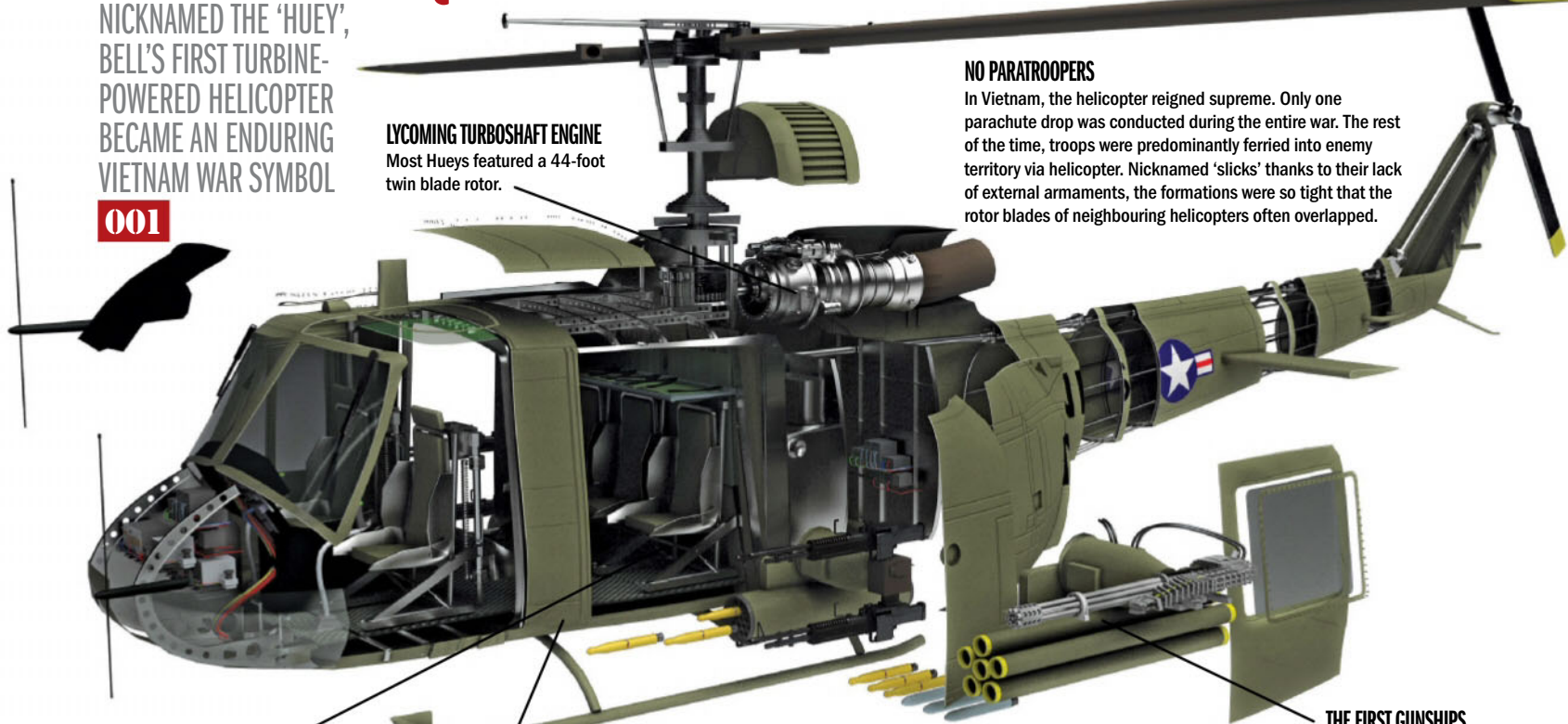
50

VEHICLES

BELL UH-1 IROQUOIS

NICKNAMED THE 'HUEY', BELL'S FIRST TURBINE-POWERED HELICOPTER BECAME AN ENDURING VIETNAM WAR SYMBOL

001



THE NICKNAME

Bell's original model designation was 'HU-1'. Even when renamed to UH-1, the 'Huey' nickname stuck.

SERVICE IN VIETNAM

More than 16,000 Bell UH-1s were produced between 1955 and 1976, with over 7,000 of them seeing service.

NO PARATROOPERS

In Vietnam, the helicopter reigned supreme. Only one parachute drop was conducted during the entire war. The rest of the time, troops were predominantly ferried into enemy territory via helicopter. Nicknamed 'slicks' thanks to their lack of external armaments, the formations were so tight that the rotor blades of neighbouring helicopters often overlapped.

LYCOMING TURBOSHAFT ENGINE

Most Hueys featured a 44-foot twin blade rotor.

VIETNAM'S LONDON BUS

Early UH-1s featured a short fuselage with cabin space for just six troops. Later UH-1B models stretched the fuselage and could seat 15 (or house six stretchers).

SEMI-MONOCOQUE CONSTRUCTION

MEDIC!

Initially, assault helicopters were used for medical evacuations. As the war continued, some Huey crews were trained in basic medical skills, and could be summoned with the 'Dustoff' radio call sign.

THE FIRST GUNSHIPS

Without weapons, 'slick' Hueys were vulnerable. Some were fitted in the field with .30 cal machine guns or rocket pods to provide defensive fire. By 1963, the first factory-built UH-1 gunship, the UH-1C, arrived in Vietnam. Despite this, around 2,500 were lost during the conflict.

HEROES & VILLAINS

BRUCE CRANDALL

DOB: 17 FEBRUARY 1933 ✪ COLONEL ✪ US ARMY

002

FLEW OVER 900 COMBAT MISSIONS DURING THE WAR

Bruce Crandall commanded the 1st Cavalry Division's Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, and was involved in some of the most heroic acts of the war. Trained to fly both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters, he was never far from the action. During the Battle of Ia Drang, he evacuated around 70 US soldiers, and supplied

the remaining troops with ammo. Another major mission was Operation Masher, during which he braved intense enemy fire while rescuing 12 wounded soldiers. He earned many awards, like the Aviation & Space Writers Helicopter Heroism Award, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and the Medal of Honor for Valor.



Bruce Crandall photographed here flying his Huey within the Ia Drang valley, after dropping off infantry on the ground

WEAPONS

60MM M2 LIGHT MORTAR

003

RAINING DOWN FIRE FROM ABOVE

Developed during World War II, the M2 steadily replaced the less efficient M19 as the standard mortar for the US Army. Copied from the designs of French engineer Edgar William Brandt, the weapon had a range of nearly 6,000 feet, and was capable of firing high-explosive white phosphorous and illuminating projectile rounds.



EVENTS

US MARINES LAND 08.03.65

004

SUPPLYING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WITH ARMS AND RESOURCES WASN'T ENOUGH

The first combat troops to be dropped in Vietnam were the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, who were charged with defending the Danang airfield on 8 March 1965. The first major skirmish began on the 14 November in the Ia Drang Valley as the US forces engaged

the NVA for the first time on the ground. Hundreds of GIs were lost and many more NVA. After the battle had ceased, US troop numbers reached their highest levels yet (200,000) as B-52s flew overhead. The American ground involvement had begun.

WEAPONS



005

9K32 STRELA-2

ANTI-AIR WEAPON FOR OVER-THE-SHOULDER USE

With the threat of US air superiority, NVA troops relied heavily on these Soviet-gifted surface-to-air launchers. Also known as the Grail, the weapon's portability was its greatest advantage, as a user could appear and threaten low-flying aircraft seemingly out of nowhere.

BATTLES & OPERATIONS

IA DRANG 006

CONFIRMATION THAT THE WAR WOULD NOT BE OVER QUICKLY FOR THE UNITED STATES

Vietnam saw some of the fiercest pitched battles in history. One of these was Ia Drang, where the North Vietnamese and US armies clashed for the first time. The North Vietnamese veered off the Ho Chi Minh trail in an attempt to escalate the main

conflict, and the two sides engaged on the wooded slopes of Chu Pong Mountain on 14 November 1965. The NVA attack was repelled, and over 200 US soldiers were killed, while North Vietnamese casualties numbered up to 1,000.

OFF THE TRAIL 1

Viet Cong and NVA forces advanced southwards and off the Ho Chi Minh path to make their presence felt to the arriving US forces.

LANDING ZONES 2

The 1st Cavalry Division touched down. As the North Vietnamese forces marched in, US soldiers engaged and pursued them.

ENCIRCLEMENT 3

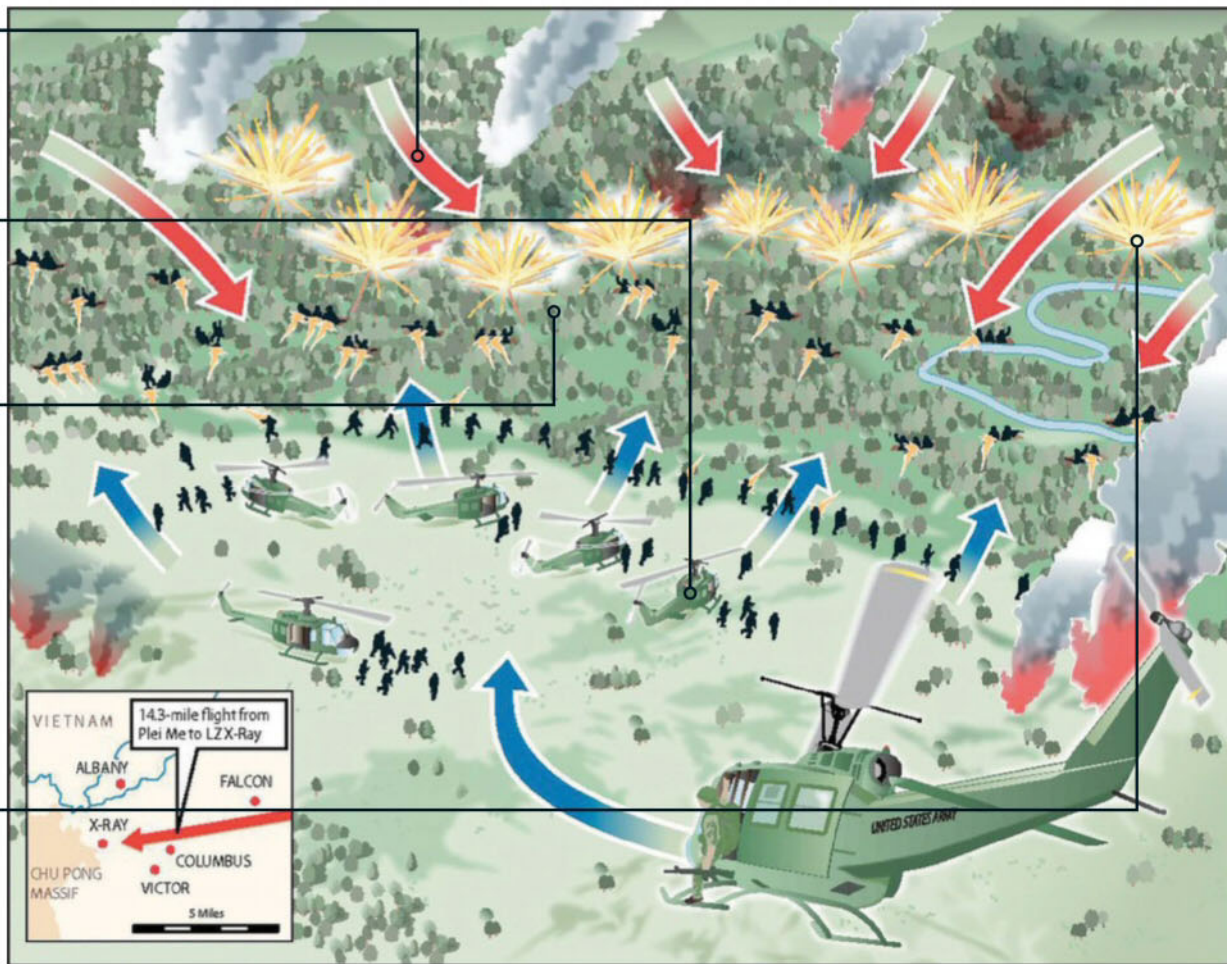
A second US Platoon pursued the NVA, but were cut off from the rest of the ground forces and encircled by the North Vietnamese.

RESCUE OPERATION 4

Reinforcements from Bravo Company were sent in on the evening of day two as the NVA launched overnight assaults on the Americans.

FIRE FOR 5

Napalm strikes pushed the NVA and Viet Cong back after five days of fighting. The NVA was buoyed by its successes against the US.



WEAPONS

105MM M101A1 HOWITZER 007

FIRE SUPPORT DROPPED INTO PLACE BY HELICOPTER

The 2.2 ton, 105mm M101 Howitzer first entered service in 1941 as the M2A2, seeing action throughout WWII and Korea before it became a mainstay of US firebases in Vietnam.



WEAPONS

FLAMETHROWERS 008

THE GO-TO WEAPON FOR BURNING OUT BUNKERS AND BUSH

Used for everything from burning brush around firebases and landing zones, to destroying Vietnamese bunkers, flamethrowers were most commonly found mounted on special tanks and riverboats nicknamed 'Zippos'. Man-portable flamethrowers were rarely used, because the heavy tanks held only enough fuel for just nine seconds of burn time.



US ARMY GI 009

8.7 million general infantrymen served from 1964-75, most of whom were army volunteers.



M1 HELMET

This headgear was the standard issue in the US Army since WWII.

WEAPONS

M16 010

AMERICA'S NEW FUTURISTIC 'PLASTIC RIFLE' WAS NOT WITHOUT PROBLEMS

In 1966, the US Army replaced the heavy M14 with a space-age lightweight rifle. Troops mocked its plastic stock and unorthodox shape, calling it the 'Mattel toy rifle'. Soon after reaching Vietnam, the M16 began suffering catastrophic jams caused by ammunition problems, made worse by troops being told that the rifle was self-cleaning. GI confidence in the rifle was destroyed by horrifying reports of men killed while disassembling their weapons to clear jams. Despite this, its light weight and high rate of fire made the M16 ideal for jungle fighting. Proper cleaning and some design changes eventually made the M16 the soldier's best friend.



BODY ARMOUR

These sturdy zip-up flak vests commonly came with ammunition pouches and grenade hangers.

UTILITY TROUSERS

Olive-green lower garments came with two patch and two hip pockets and were made to endure all weathers and heavy wear.

JUNGLE BOOTS

Before the introduction of sturdier jungle boots, flimsier footwear rotted quickly in the unforgiving conditions.

WEAPONS

AK47 RIFLE 011

THE INSURGENT'S ICONIC WEAPON OF CHOICE

Designed by Mikhail Kalashnikov in the late Forties, the AK47 reached Vietnam in 1967, with Russia and China sending hundreds of thousands of rifles. The most common was China's copy of the AK, the Type 56. While the gun was less accurate and heavier than the M16, its simple, rugged design meant it was easy to shoot and maintain even after being dragged through the jungle or a muddy rice paddy. Unlike the M16, the AK's heavier 7.62x39mm bullet was able to penetrate dense jungle and even trees. The Vietnam War helped make the AK47 the world's most recognisable rifle.



SMOKE GRENADE

Coloured smoke grenades were frequently used to mark landing zones and casualty pickup points.

COMMANDERS AND LEADERS



012

LE TRONG TAN
CHIEF OF STAFF AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF VIETNAM

A major commander of the NVA and Communist forces, General Le Trong Tan led assaults on the cities of Hue and Da Nang in 1975. He was also the deputy commander in the Ho Chi Minh campaign in the latter stages of the Spring Offensive.



013

HO CHI MINH
PRESIDENT OF NORTH VIETNAM

A veteran of the Indochina War, Ho was in poor health for most of the Vietnam War, and was more of a public figure than a governing one. However, he was instrumental in planning the Tet Offensive, and remained influential until his death in 1969.



014

EARLE WHEELER
US ARMY GENERAL & CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

A surprising choice for a general, Wheeler was known for pumping extra troops into combat whenever requested. He favoured heavy-handed tactics, and presided over the heaviest stages of US involvement in the war. He also pioneered the first acts of 'Vietnamisation'.



015

RICHARD NIXON
US PRESIDENT

Coming into power at a time of huge anti-war sentiment, Nixon planned to withdraw US forces in Vietnam as rapidly as possible. This was easier said than done, and the US remained in 'Nam as they tried to incorporate the 'Vietnamisation' policy.

EVENTS

MY LAI MASSACRE 16.03.68

THE BRUTAL MURDERING OF 500 CIVILIANS IN THE VILLAGE OF MY LAI 016

The guerrilla warfare in Vietnam was so secretive that almost anyone could be in alliance with the Viet Cong. By 16 March 1968, the morale of the US forces was at a low ebb. Task Force Barker was assigned to seek out Viet Cong members in the small village of My Lai, and despite reports stating that very few were of fighting age, the troops opened fire on the residents of the village. The event was a turning point in opinion back in the US, and Lieutenant William Calley was charged for war crimes for his part in the massacre.



VEHICLES

M520 GOER 017

AN AMPHIBIOUS 4X4 THAT COULD GO ANYWHERE, HELPING TO SUPPLY US TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The Caterpillar-built prototype M520 GOERs were pressed into active service in 1966, where they quickly became the most popular resupplying vehicle. The M520 had no suspension, instead relying on tyres for springing.

What's more, the seams between the GOER's external steel frame and sides were watertight, making it amphibious. Despite its success, it wasn't until 1972 that a production order was placed, seeing 812 sent to Vietnam.



HEROES & VILLAINS

HUGH THOMPSON JR 019

THIS TRUE HERO STOOD AGAINST THE TIDE DURING ONE OF THE DARKEST EVENTS IN THE WAR

DOB: 15 APRIL 1943 MAJOR US ARMY



The My Lai Massacre of 16 March 1968 was one of the darkest moments of the war, but if it weren't for Hugh Thompson and his helicopter crew, it would have been a lot bleaker. While the tragedy was unfolding, Larry Colburn, Glenn Andreotta and Hugh Thompson attempted to stop the massacre. Using their helicopter to block the US troops, Thompson ordered the vehicle's machine guns to be trained on American GIs to halt the slaughter. After this, they flew around rescuing all that they could. Pulling Vietnamese from ditches and clearing bunkers, the trio managed to extract many of the victims from the area in helicopters. Thompson and his crew initially had a mixed reception upon returning home, but received the Soldier's Medal in 1998 for their heroic act.

BATTLES & OPERATIONS

SIEGE OF HUÉ 018

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL CITY HAD BEEN SPARED DAMAGE UNTIL JANUARY 1968

Despite the war raging relentlessly around it, the ancient city of Hué had barely been touched until January 1968, when 10,000 NVA and Viet Cong troops rolled into town.

2,500 US soldiers crossed the river from the south to help stop the communist advance, before the NVA could round up and

kill leading South Vietnamese government officials and destroy the citadel.

The battle would become one of the largest US urban conflicts of all time. A tactical victory for the US, the gory images seen around the world greatly reduced Western support for the war.

1 NVA AND VIET CONG ASSAULT

On the final day of January, North Vietnamese forces sweep through Hué, targeting the citadel as the city falls under NVA control.

2 FAILED LIBERATION

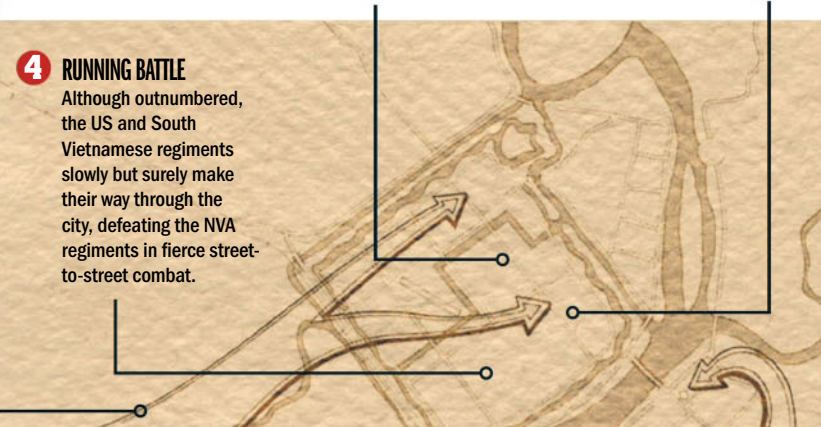
The North Vietnamese propaganda doesn't register with the majority of Hué's residents, who are against the communist advance, and instead aid the South Vietnamese.

5 SECURING THE CITY

The Communists are finally defeated on 2 January, by which point 50 per cent of the ancient city has been destroyed. This is a blow for South Vietnamese morale.

4 RUNNING BATTLE

Although outnumbered, the US and South Vietnamese regiments slowly but surely make their way through the city, defeating the NVA regiments in fierce street-to-street combat.



3 US RESPONSE

It isn't long until the allies counter-attack as US marines enter the fray and begin advancing through the city from the south. The NVA begins to execute government officials.

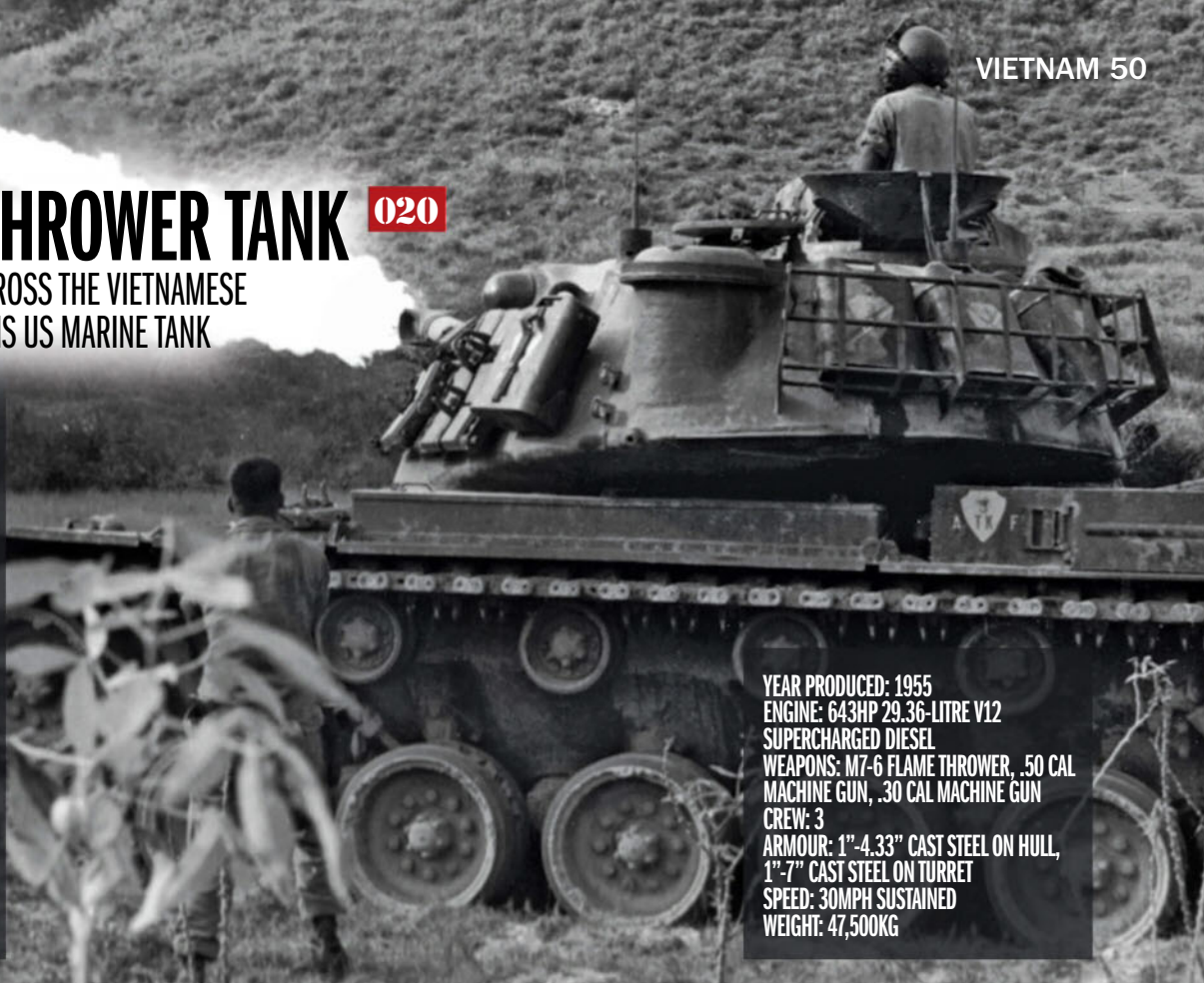
VEHICLES

M67A2 FLAME THROWER TANK 020

SENDING SCORCHING NAPALM ACROSS THE VIETNAMESE COUNTRYSIDE WAS THE JOB OF THIS US MARINE TANK

Based on the hull of the M48 Patton tank, the M67 flame-throwing tank did away with the usual gun, instead utilising an M7 fuel and pressure unit, along with an M6 flame gun (the latter of which was hidden inside a dummy 90mm turret in order to prevent the Flame Thrower Tanks from being singled out by enemy fire).

Favoured by the US Marine Corps, the M67 tanks were nicknamed 'Zippos' after the famous manufacturer of cigarette lighters. However, unlike their everyday namesake, there was no novelty about the flame-throwing tanks, spewing out napalm over Viet Cong territory. Alongside the M132 armored flamethrower, the Marines were provided with a fearsome offensive weapon that caused much destruction to the rebel Vietnamese forces.



YEAR PRODUCED: 1955
ENGINE: 643HP 29.36-LITRE V12 SUPERCHARGED DIESEL
WEAPONS: M7-6 FLAME THROWER, .50 CAL MACHINE GUN, .30 CAL MACHINE GUN
CREW: 3
ARMOUR: 1"-4.33" CAST STEEL ON HULL, 1"-7" CAST STEEL ON TURRET
SPEED: 30MPH SUSTAINED
WEIGHT: 47,500KG

NAPALM

ALMOST 400,000 TONS OF NAPALM WERE DROPPED DURING THE WAR

Developed during WWII, Napalm was first used in Vietnam by the French. A mix of petrol and thickening gel, Napalm burns at 1,000°C and can cover up to 2,000m² when dropped from the air. News reports of Vietnamese civilians accidentally hit by napalm during air attacks horrified the US public.



WEAPONS

021

WEAPONS

AGENT ORANGE

THE HORRIFIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE DANGEROUS DEFOLIANT

Over 75,000,000 litres of the acidic herbicide were sprayed from planes and helicopters, devastating vast swathes of Vietnamese jungle in an effort to destroy the Viet Cong's dense jungle cover. The side effects of Agent Orange led to hideous deformities and illnesses among those who came into contact with it



022

VEHICLES

SOVIET MIG-17 023 VS USAF F-4 PHANTOM II 024

SOVIET AND AMERICAN AERONAUTIC TECHNOLOGY CLASHED IN THE BATTLE FOR VIETNAMESE AIR SUPERIORITY

Despite US Air Force pilots being engaged in aerial combat almost continuously since the end of WWII, USAF could only manage a 2:1 kill ratio against the NVAF's MiG-17 and MiG-21 fleet.

The MiG-17 was the tightest turning jet fighter of its day. Despite its thin delta wings, it could sustain turns of up to 8G. While the US began developing air-to-air missile systems for its fighter planes, the MiG's twin cannon system made it a

better bet in close aerial dogfights, accounting for 26 US aircraft from 1965-72.

At the time, The F-4 Phantom II was the West's most prolific fighter craft. Serving under the US Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, the jet had already set speed and altitude records by the outbreak of the war. A highly versatile

plane, it was capable of participating in intercept and reconnaissance missions.

The F-4G 'Wild Weasel' variant was developed by the US Air Force to find and destroy enemy radar using air-to-surface missiles, which proved highly effective against NVA installations.





EVENTS

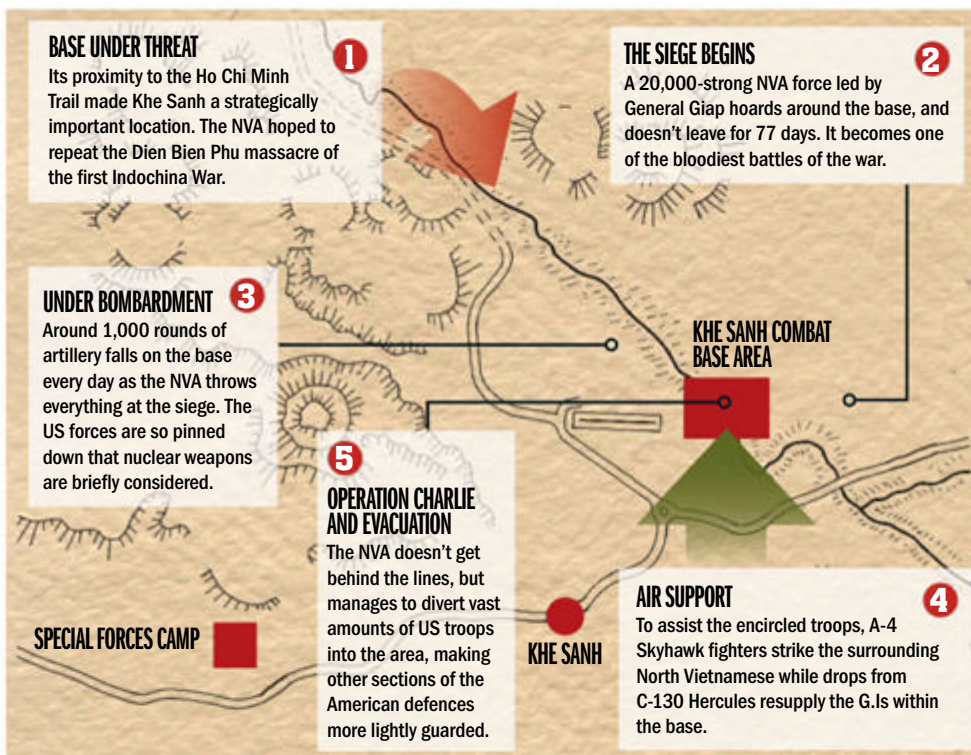
TET OFFENSIVE

30.01.68

THE TURNING POINT OF THE WAR THAT KICK-STARTED THE US WITHDRAWAL

025

This surprise attack in January 1968 saw 70,000 NVA and Viet Cong troops swarm into over 100 cities, towns and military bases in South Vietnam. Although the attack was eventually repelled, the show of military strength shocked the South Vietnamese and US military so much that withdrawal talks began shortly after. The toughest fighting was in Hue, where US air strikes bombarded the citadel, which had been taken by the NVA. The Offensive lasted seven months until the NVA and Viet Cong were forced to retreat, with losses of around 37,000 men. It was a huge cost to life, but an important strategic victory.



BATTLES & OPERATIONS SIEGE OF KHE SANH 026

AN IMPORTANT US BASE, KHE SANH BORE THE BRUNT OF THE TET OFFENSIVE

Beginning on 21 January 1968, this siege would last six months as the NVA tested the resolute US defences to the limit. With 20,000 men surrounding Khe Sanh, the 6,000 US soldiers and

their South Vietnamese allies put up a strong defence, but had to be rescued by air support. 80,000 tons of bombs were dropped on the attackers, who were forced to retreat after losing up to 15,000 men, but earned a strategic victory in the process as the tactical success of the Tet Offensive continued.

“I CANNOT DESCRIBE IN WORDS HOW FRIGHTENING IT WAS”



US MARINE VETERAN KEN RODGERS WITNESSED THE SIEGE OF KHE SANH AND THE TET OFFENSIVE FIRST-HAND 028

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCES OF THE SIEGE OF KHE SANH TO US?

Little food, little water. We were hungry, dirty and frightened. We were pounded with all sorts of incoming, from sniper fire to 152mm artillery. We lost a lot of men. Over 60 KIA in Bravo Company alone. I cannot describe in words how frightening it was. A lot of times, in war, one has five and ten minute encounters with the enemy and those encounters scare you. But only a little. Khe Sanh was about fear twenty-four-hours a day. Fear piled on top of fear, the levels so numerous and varied they almost defy description.

WERE YOU UNDER CONSTANT BOMBARDMENT?

As I recall it, we were under almost constant bombardment. I left Khe Sanh, I think, on 4/2/68. I went down to one of the helicopter pads and waited what seemed like all day before I got on a Chinook and flew out for the coast and the Marine base at Dong Ha. I remember the crew chief of the Chinook telling me to sit down but I wouldn't. I stood up because I was afraid ground fire from the NVA would come through the bottom of the hull and kill me.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU HEAR OF THE ONCOMING TET OFFENSIVE?

I first heard about the Tet Offensive on Armed Forces Radio the day it happened. We got almost all our news and entertainment that way, unless we listened to Hanoi Hannah. As the Tet Offensive

unfolded, we were trapped inside Khe Sanh and we thought the end of the world for us was at hand and just not us personally, but for the American war effort. I suspect that Khe Sanh and Tet were illustrations to the American public that the war effort was a waste of time, humanity and money and they, over the next few years, determined to pull their support for military action.

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THE WAVES OF ATTACKS THAT FOLLOWED?

At the onset of Tet nothing much changed at Khe Sanh except the ferocity of the attacks increased, more incoming, the NVA attacking outposts outside the combat base itself. They introduced their tank units and stormed some Army Special Forces installations and tried to take some Marine positions, too.

WAS THE AMOUNT AND FEROCITY OF THE ATTACKS A SHOCK TO YOU? WHAT TACTICS DID YOU USE IN RESPONSE?

Full scale war is a shock and by its nature is ferocious. At Khe Sanh we dug deep, stayed low and waited for the chance to get outside the wire that surrounded our positions and attack attack attack.

DID YOU RECEIVE ANY WOUNDS?

On March 30, 1968 I was on an assault of a hill southeast of Khe Sanh Combat Base (Known as the Payback Patrol) and was hit in the head with shrapnel from a mortar. Later that day I was hit in the face with white phosphorus from a booby trap.

HEROES & VILLAINS 027

NGUYEN HUY HIEU

THIS SOLDIER EMERGED FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN THE WAR

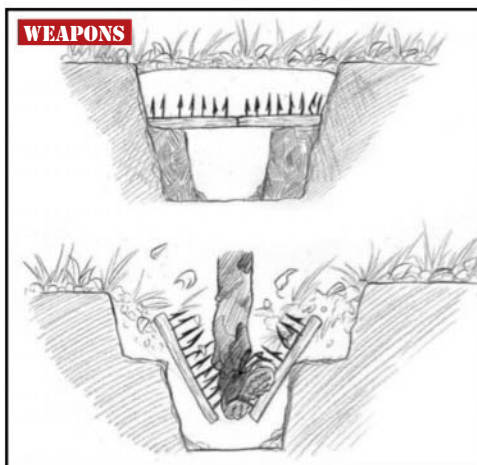
DOB: 1947 ★ REGIMENT COMMANDER ★ NVA



Born in Nam Dinh in North Vietnam, Nguyen Huy Hieu joined the military at 18. During the war, he progressed rapidly through the ranks, and became one of

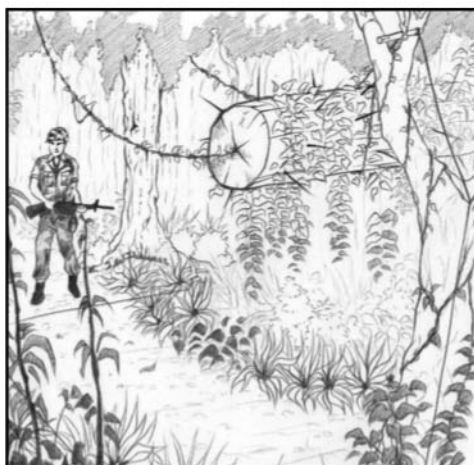
the youngest captains in the NVA. One of his most notable conflicts was the 1968 Battle of Quang Tri, where the NVA and Viet Cong were defeated while trying to occupy the city of Quang Tri. By October 1970, Nguyen ascended to the rank of Commander. His service didn't go unnoticed by the North Vietnamese hierarchy, who awarded him the title of Commander of the regiment in 1973. After the war, he was given the title 'Hero of the People's Armed Forces', along with five Liberation Distinguished Service Medals and 14 Brave Soldier titles.

Ken Rodgers, photo courtesy of Kevin Martini-Fuller.



WEAPONS **PANJI TRAP 029**

Hidden inconspicuously inside camouflaged holes, these traps were ideal for catching unsuspecting US GIs off guard. These hidden jungle threats could slow a march down to a sluggish pace, as they were almost impossible to locate. If you were unlucky enough to get caught in one, a bamboo spike or nail plunging through your foot would make you instantly combat ineffective.



MACE TRAP 030

What the US had in firepower the Viet Cong made up for with ingenuity. The mace trap was a simple three-metre (ten-foot) log studded with sharp bamboo spikes. It would be triggered by a concealed trip wire on the forest floor, and was used in a similar role to the Panji trap. These mace traps were silent, but could maim and even kill once activated.



GRENADE TRAP 031

Less widespread than other traps due to the availability of explosives, this was nonetheless an effective trap. The grenade could be hidden in water, under foliage or up in the treetops. Once again using the element of surprise, a small tug on the tripwire would dislodge the safety pin and incapacitate a group of enemy soldiers in one blast.

VEHICLES **032**
BICYCLE
THE VIET CONG MOVED SUPPLIES VIA PEDAL POWER

In stark contrast to the technological might of the US, one of the key vehicles for the North Vietnamese troops was the humble bicycle.

Capable of carrying up to 180kg of supplies, the Viet Cong used their bikes to transport rice, guns and other goods. They proved especially useful in ferrying items along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and were an integral part of the Tet Offensive.

Fully laden, the bicycles were impossible to ride. Instead, they were pushed at pedestrian pace. However, easy to repair and simple to camouflage, they were rarely hit by US attacks. Harrison Salisbury, a *New York Times* reporter who had spent time in Hanoi, remarked: "I literally believe that without bikes they'd have to get out of the war."



STRUCTURES **THE CU CHI TUNNELS** **033**

THE VIET CONG CONSTRUCTED HUGE TUNNEL NETWORKS TO STRIKE INFANTRY FROM BELOW

AMERICAN ADVANCE
US Infantry and tank divisions would advance through the jungle, unaware of the subterranean bases under their very feet.

TRAPS
Holes filled with grenades or spikes would be well concealed until an unsuspecting GI stumbled across one.

CARPET BOMBING
To flush the Viet Cong out, the US forces resorted to mass bombing operations. They were only moderately successful.

TUNNEL RATS
The US troops ventured underground with grenades and tear gas, but were met with more traps and fierce Viet Cong resistance.

PLANNING CHAMBER
The facilities underground were expansive enough to house conference rooms.

STOREHOUSE
The Viet Cong could stay concealed for days, and stockpiled supplies so they could eat, sleep and drink under the ground.

COMPLEX TUNNEL NETWORK
Between the larger rooms the tunnels were narrow, and only one man could fit through at a time.

DORMITORY
While battles were raging above, Viet Cong troops could sleep deep in the subterranean tunnels.

HEROES & VILLAINS **VO NGUYEN GIAP** DOB: 25 AUGUST 1911 ⚡ COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ⚡ VIETMINH
THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE VIETMINH WAS KEY TO FIGHTING THE US CAMPAIGN **034**

A veteran of World War II and the Indochina War, the 'Red Napoleon' was the leader of the Communist Vietminh, or League for the Independence of Vietnam, and the country's Defence Minister. An astute military tactician, he sent frequent aid to the Viet Cong, and is credited with organising the Tet Offensive.

After the US withdrawal, Giap helped mastermind the 1975 fall of Saigon. Internal power struggles in the North Vietnamese hierarchy has reduced Giap's depiction in modern Vietnam. In modern texts, much of the glory of victory is credited to General Văn Tiên Dũng rather than Giap.



VEHICLES

NORTH AMERICAN ROCKWELL OV-10 BRONCO 035

AN UNUSUAL WARBIRD DESIGNED TO DO IT ALL IN THE SKIES ABOVE VIETNAM

A large cockpit, seating pilot and co-pilot in tandem, with wings mounted atop the fuselage and twin booms with interconnecting stabiliser, North American Rockwell's OV-10 Bronco certainly cut a distinctive shape in the air.

Designed and tested in the early Sixties with the counter-insurgency combat of Vietnam in mind, the OV-10 was capable of short take-offs and landings, ideal for use from larger amphibious assault ships or from unprepared



YEAR PRODUCED: 1965
 ENGINE: 2 X 715HP GARRETT T76 TURBOPROPS
 WEAPONS: 4 X 7.62MM MACHINE GUNS
 CREW: 2
 SPEED: 281MPH MAX.
 WEIGHT: 3,125KG UNLADEN

airfields. It could also be started without ground equipment and, if needed, run on automotive petrol with little loss of performance.

Capable of carrying 1,450kg of cargo (from five paratroopers to a Viet Cong-busting supply of bombs), the OV-10 was a versatile machine after its introduction into Vietnam in 1969, most at

home during forward air control and reconnaissance missions. However, despite aiding in numerous air strikes, the Bronco wasn't without its problems. 81 OV-10 Broncos were lost in Vietnam, with a low top speed making it an easy target for enemy fighters, and its slow climb rate causing some US pilots to crash into the hilly terrain.

VEHICLES

ATC 'MONITOR' BOAT 037

PATROLLING THE RIVERS WAS ENTRUSTED TO CONVERTED LANDING CRAFT

Inspired by its French counterparts' actions during the First Indochina War, the US Navy and Army formed the Mobile Riverine Force to combat Viet Cong forces in the Mekong Delta, predominantly using Armoured Troop Carriers (ATCs) to ferry up to 40 soldiers and launch river-based assaults in water five feet or deeper.

The ATCs were based on the Fifties LCM-6 landing craft design, using quarter-inch hardened steel armour plating to protect the superstructure and a distinctive bow ramp used for deploying troops and loading supplies. In 61-foot 'Monitor' form, the ATC boat was transformed into a floating artillery platform, adding either a 81mm mortar or a 105mm Howitzer to the usual ATC armaments.

One of the finest moments for the ATCs in Vietnam was during Operation Game Warden on 18 December 1965. Intending to prevent the Viet Cong from accessing the vital supplies along the Mekong Delta, US forces launched a rapid surprise attack at a number of small enemy ports, destroying much of the Viet Cong fleet.



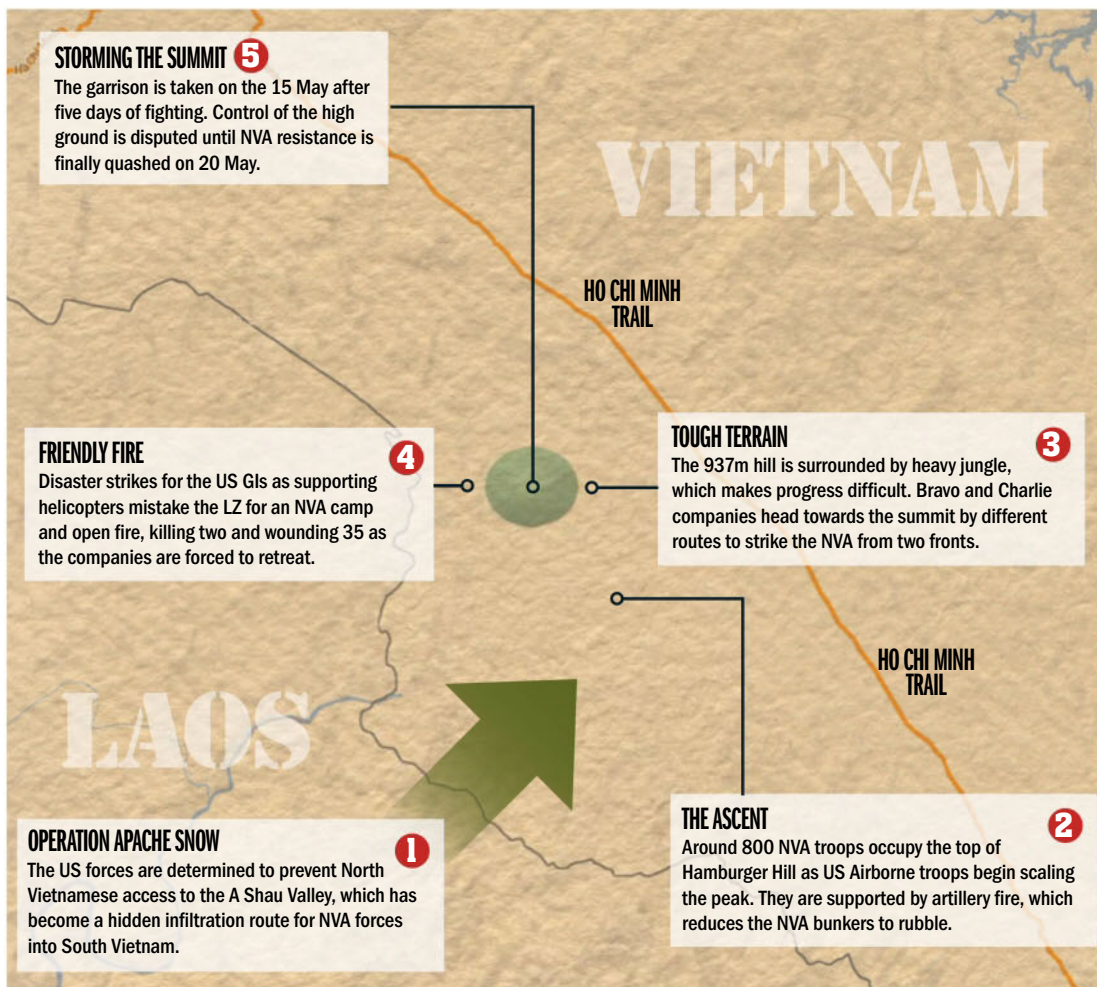
BATTLES & OPERATIONS

HAMBURGER HILL 036

US FORCES ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE A SHAU VALLEY, AN IMPORTANT NVA ROUTE TO SOUTH VIETNAM

Operation Apache Snow was designed to restrict the North Vietnamese advance southwards. The valley on the border with Laos had become littered with NVA bases, and the Ap Bia Mountain - or Hamburger Hill - was one of the major centres. 1,800 US and South Vietnamese troops managed to defeat 800

NVA soldiers after a long, drawn-out battle where the heavy US infantry struggled in the thick undergrowth of the hill's slopes. The battle is known for various friendly fire incidents and a hollow US victory that many back home saw as a senseless battle in a senseless war.



HEROES & VILLAINS **JOHN MCCAIN 038**

DOB: 29 AUGUST 1936 ★ LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ★ US NAVY

THE FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SERVED IN THE NAVY BEFORE SPENDING FIVE AND A HALF YEARS IN A POW CAMP



The son of a navy admiral, McCain saw his first action in Operation Rolling Thunder.

While flying in his A-4 Skyhawk, he was hit by a missile and had his right wing blown off. He managed to activate his ejector seat, but the ferocity knocked him unconscious

and broke his right leg and both arms. Barely conscious, McCain was taken to Hoa Lo Prison and interrogated. Determined to give nothing away, the injured navy pilot refused to say anything more than his name, rank, serial number and date of birth. This angered his captors, who gave him next to no care and barely any food. This went on for five and a half years, and he was only once taken to a hospital after the guards learnt of his father's rank. After his release, he returned home a hero.



WEAPONS

M60 039

REVERED FOR ITS FIREPOWER AND NICKNAMED 'THE PIG' FOR ITS SIZE

Mounted in choppers, on jeeps and lugged through the jungle by GIs, the M60 was the US's primary squad light machine gun. Firing a heavy 7.62mm bullet, it punched

through jungle undergrowth with ease. The barrel got so hot during firing, a heat-proof asbestos glove was issued for barrel changes.

VEHICLES

WILLYS M38A1 JEEP 040

AN ICON OF WWII, THE WILLYS JEEP'S MILITARY SERVICE CARRIED THROUGH THE VIETNAM CONFLICT TOO

After the success of the Willys MB Jeep in World War II, the US firm developed the M38 Jeep for use by the US Marine Corps, where it was once again put into a multitude of roles during the Vietnam War.

Often seen patrolling around Saigon, the Jeep was a cheap and reliable means of transporting small numbers of troops and goods over multiple terrains. From carrying dignitaries (such as President Lyndon B Johnson during his various visits) to providing cover during urban warfare,

YEAR PRODUCED: 1952
ENGINE: 75HP 2.2-LITRE INLINE-4 PETROL ENGINE
WEAPONS: NONE
CREW: 1
ARMOUR: NONE
SPEED: UNKNOWN
WEIGHT: 1,200KG

the M38A1 Jeep – featuring revised suspension, a stronger chassis and rounded wings – more than proved its worth with over 80,000 units produced for US forces use between 1952 and 1957.

However, the etymology of 'Jeep' is still debated, with some believing it to be a form of 'GP' (General Purpose Vehicle) and others feeling it influenced by Eugene the Jeep, a jungle dwelling character in the *Popeye* comics.



WEAPONS

M18 CLAYMORE MINE 041

'FRONT TOWARD ENEMY' – AMERICA'S LETHAL ANTI-PERSONNEL MINE

Ideal for ambushes and anti-infiltration defence, the Claymore, named after the famous Scottish broadsword, was a lethal anti-personnel mine developed in the Fifties. A block of plastic explosive inside the curved casing blasted 700 steel ball bearings into a 100m kill zone, killing or maiming everything in range.





DESIGNED IN A HOTEL

Boeing Chief Engineer Ed Well and his team had to redesign the B-52's design during a weekend in an Ohio hotel when the US Air Force asked them to scrap the previous propeller-engine design.

EIGHT JET ENGINES

While it looks as if the B-52 only has four engines, each cluster - suspended below the wings - contains two Pratt & Whitney turbofans. With 10,000lb of bombs, the B-52 had a combat radius of 3,650 miles.

DROP TANKS

External fuel tanks increased capacity by up to 1,000 US gallons.

EXTERNAL PAYLOAD

Project South Bay enhanced the B-52F's external payload capacity in 1964.

A B-52 CREW

A regular B-52 crew consisted of a pilot, a co-pilot, an electronic warfare officer specialising in identifying and countering various threats, a navigator, a radar navigator (who would also double as the bombardier) and a tail gunner.

WINGSPAN

The swept-wing B-52 had a wingspan of 185ft.

IMMENSE FIREPOWER

Standard B-52s could carry around 43,000lb of bombs across the internal bomb bay and on the wings. During the Christmas bombings of 1972, B-52s dropped over 15,000 tons of ordnance across 12 days for the loss of 15 planes.

VEHICLES

BOEING B-52 STRATOFORTRESS 042

THE US AIR FORCE'S LONGEST SERVING BOMBER PLAYED A STARRING ROLE IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT

YEAR PRODUCED: 1954
ENGINE: 8 X 13,750LB PRATT & WHITNEY TURBOFANS
WEAPONS: 4 X .50 CAL MACHINE GUNS, UP TO 60,000LB BOMB CAPACITY
CREW: 6
SPEED: 638MPH MAX
WEIGHT: 78,350KG EMPTY

OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER

Between March 1965 and November 1968, the US Air Force implemented a sustained bombing of Vietnam. A number of B-52Ds were given a 'Big Belly' conversion, allowing them to carry a bomb total of 60,000lbs during the operation.

HEROES & VILLAINS

BOB KERREY 043

DOB: 27 AUGUST 1943 **PLATOON OFFICER**
NAVY SEAL

THE SENATOR'S WARTIME EXPERIENCES ARE AMONG THE CONFLICT'S MOST SHOCKING



Despite only serving for three months in Vietnam, Bob Kerrey's actions and those of his SEAL comrades have become a point of great

controversy. In February 1969, Kerrey led a team of SEALs on a night patrol around the village of Thanh Phong. What happened next is widely debated, but the most common account is of Kerrey and his team taking fire. Diving for cover, they shot back with their M16 assault rifles, expending around 1,200 rounds of ammunition. Upon entering the village, they realised to their horror that they had not shot Viet Cong soldiers, but women and children. Since then it has been questioned whether it was the SEALs who were responsible for the killings, or a ploy by the Viet Cong.

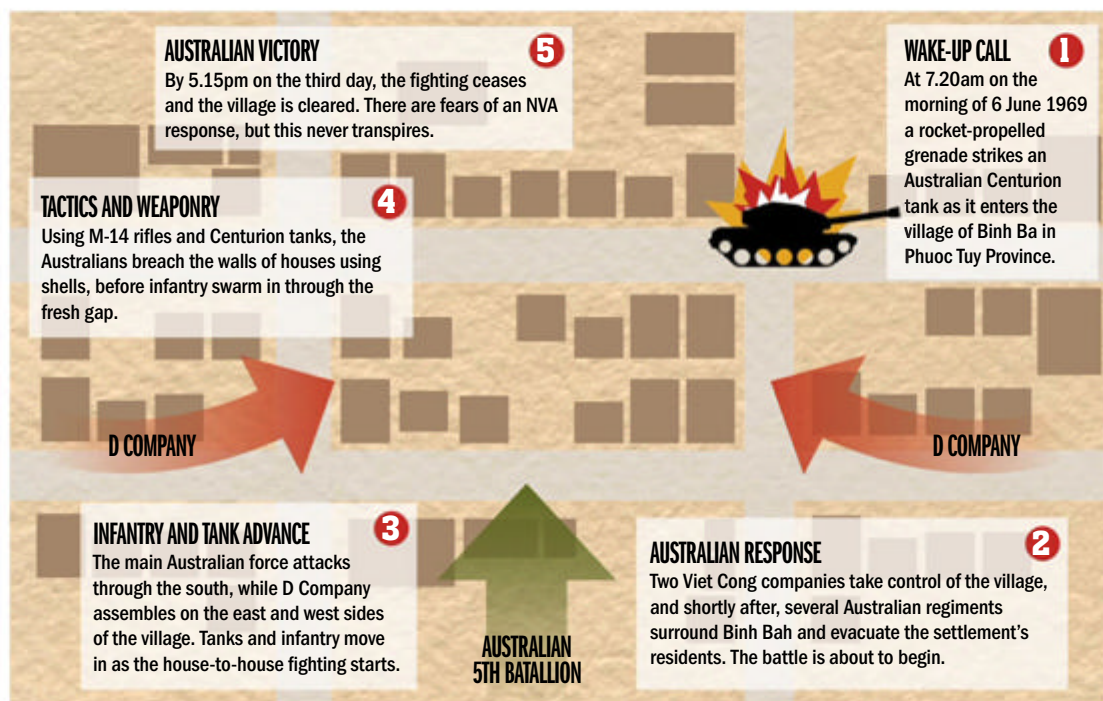
BATTLES & OPERATIONS

BINH BAH 044

THE 5TH AUSTRALIAN BATTALION TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE VIET CONG

Binh Ba was one of the key Australian involvements in the Vietnam War. After two Viet Cong companies launched raids on the village under the cover of darkness, the Australian 5th Battalion responded with a large infantry presence that surrounded the area. Despite the Viet Cong disguising themselves as civilians,

the fighting became one-sided as the Australians outclassed their opponents. The victory denied the Viet Cong a free corridor in the Phuoc Tuy Province, and with only one loss on the Australian side (compared to 110 communists) it was one of the most resounding victories of the war.



NAVY SEAL WEAPONS

CARL GUSTAV M/45 045

THE LEGENDARY 'SWEDISH-K' FAVOURED BY US SPECIAL FORCES

Developed by neutral Sweden during WWII, the rugged M/45 became extremely popular with CIA operators and US Navy SEALs in Vietnam. The 1966 Swedish arms embargo ended export of the M/45 to the US. This led Smith & Wesson to produce the M76, a direct copy of the 'Swedish-K'.



KA-BAR 046

THE UTILITARIAN COMBAT KNIFE CARRIED BY THOUSANDS OF US SERVICEMEN

Hanging from the belt of most US servicemen in Vietnam, the Ka-Bar, first adopted in 1942, was invaluable. It was used for everything from probing for mines to opening C-rations.



S&W MODEL 39 A FAST-FIRING 9MM 047 FAVOURITE

Smith & Wesson's first modern automatic pistol was used by the Navy SEALs during covert missions, a model adapted with a sound suppressor was nicknamed the 'Hush Puppy'.



HEROES & VILLAINS 048

NGUYEN NGOC LOAN

DOB: 11 DECEMBER 1930
 NATIONAL POLICE COMMANDER
 SOUTH VIETNAMESE

THE MAN BEHIND ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS IMAGES OF THE WAR WAS SOUTH VIETNAM'S BRUTAL AND UNSYMPATHETIC CHIEF OF POLICE

Nguyen Ngoc Loan was a staunch South Vietnamese nationalist, and led the national police force in its struggle against the Viet Cong. He is remembered for his irrational rages and bad temper, as well as his insistence that only local authorities could arrest and detain South Vietnamese citizens. His refusal to offer the US GIs any preferable treatment made him very unpopular with the American forces, but he was an efficient police commander who performed his job competently.

However, his whole life would change on 1 February 1968 with his role in perhaps the most iconic image from the Vietnam War, when he shot Viet Cong prisoner



Nguyen Van Lem in cold blood after his deputy hesitated to do so. The incident helped spark negative public opinion against the war, especially in the US as an Associated Press photographer caught the full anguish on the victim's face in the photo. Loan had reason to use force (Lem was the captain of a Viet Cong death squad who had been targeting the families of the South Vietnam Police), but the shooting struck a nerve worldwide.

Three months later, Loan was injured by machine-gun fire, ending his involvement in the war. He escaped on a plane at the fall of Saigon, and lived the rest of his life selling pizza in Washington DC.

WEAPONS 049

RPD THE VERSATILE RUSSIAN LIGHT MACHINE GUN FAVOURED BY THE VC



Firing the same round as the AK47 the RPD fed from a formidable 100-round drum. Its fixed barrel meant it had to be fired in short bursts to avoid over-heating, but it was lighter than the bulky M60, making it the ideal light machine gun for Viet Cong insurgents.

EVENTS

FALL OF SAIGON 30.04.75

COMMUNIST FORCES ADVANCE UNOPPOSED INTO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAPITAL

In seven short weeks in 1975, the Communist forces swept south towards the capital of the South and their ultimate goal, Saigon. With Vietnamisation a failure, the South Vietnamese army was in disarray as the gates of Saigon were threatened for the first time in ten years. The city fell on 30 April as NVA tanks rolled through the streets with only minimal resistance from the scattered Southern forces. By this time the US embassy had safely been evacuated, and President Nixon had already fled to Taiwan. Saigon was renamed 'Ho Chi Minh City', and the entire country now belonged to the Communist government.



050

Images: The Art Agency, Corbis, Ed Crooks, Alex Pang

THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY WARS

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS

As the fire of revolution burned through France, it threatened to spread throughout Europe and turn the world on its head

Louis XVI had a big problem. His decision to finance a costly involvement in the American War of Independence and his ever-increasing personal excesses had put France on the verge of bankruptcy. The bourgeoisie of the country desired political power and widespread crop failures only made the situation worse for the House of Bourbon. Revolution was coming. Louis wasn't going down without a fight however, and he did all in his power to maintain his grip on the throne.

The king's first move was to appoint Charles Calonne as Controller General of Finance to lift the monarchy's accounts back into the black. The statesman set to work on a sinking fund and a reorganisation of the gold coinage but soon realised that major reform was required. His solution was to increase taxation on the nobles with a new proportional tax. A fatal move. Calonne was attacked from all quarters by political opponents and Louis was left with no option but to dismiss him.

Former Finance Minister Jacques Necker was the next to be caught in the financial crossfire when he was reappointed in 1788. Necker, shocked at the state of the nation's finances, decided that there was only one thing for it: to recall the Estates-General for the first time since 1614. The Estates-General was made up of three representative assemblies, the Clergy, the Nobles and the 'Third Estate' that represented the peasant majority. This was the first meeting of the assembly in over 100 years and provided the basis for the formation of the National Assembly. This was coupled with a new free press, which instantly flooded France with literature discussing the reconstruction of the state. The ideology and philosophy of the revolution was now widespread.

Journalist and activist Jean-Paul Marat was one who helped spread the revolutionary fervour. From the 17 September he edited the newspaper *L'Ami du Peuple* (The Friend of the People), which grew increasingly anti-monarchical with every issue. The freedom of the press was one of the revolution's greatest weapons and allowed new ideology and fresh views on economics, politics and society to flourish in the country. The 1789 *Declaration of*

the Rights of Man and of the Citizen lends itself to this new lease of life.

The Bastille in Paris was stormed in 14 July 1789. A major symbol of royal tyranny, it helped initiate 'the Great Fear', which gripped the country for over a month as violence spilled out onto the streets. The situation grew even worse for the monarchy after the march on the Palace of Versailles in October of the same year. This was followed by the King and his wife, Marie Antoinette, being forcibly moved to Paris to be nearer the people and away from the isolation in Versailles.

Afraid of what could follow, Louis and his family attempted to escape to the royalist citadel of Montmédy dressed as nobles. They made it out of the capital but were arrested in the town of Varennes 50 kilometres (31 miles) east of Paris. The King was recognised by the postmaster of the nearby town of Sainte-Menehould and the alarm was raised. The power was now with the revolution and the major European powers knew it.

Rise of the First French Republic

As the 'Great Fear' subsided, the National Assembly assumed control of the country. Created by the Third Estate after their aversion to tax rules, they held a deep distrust of the monarchy and promoted liberty and equality in France. A new constitution was drawn up in 1791 and there was even a new specially made republican calendar made to completely distinguish the new movement from the old monarchy. Religion also took a complete backseat under this new regime with the ten-day week designed to eliminate Sunday.

The constitution allowed two-thirds of adult men to vote but it lasted less than a year as it was constantly bickered over and then revised. The new France was supposed to be a place of natural and legal rights but economic issues lingered and with the king hesitant in his decision making and universally loathed, the threat from abroad grew stronger. As time progressed two separate factions developed – the moderate Girondists and the more-extreme Jacobins. They disagreed on many aspects with the most prominent being their disagreement



Napoleon Bonaparte leads his troops over the bridge of Arcole during the 1796 battle



KEY FIGURES



KING LOUIS XVI

This Bourbon king's reign was plagued by financial issues. While the rest of France struggled to find two Livres to rub together, Louis' extravagant lifestyle provoked hatred from the French people. His suppressing of the National Assembly and raising of taxes triggered revolution.



QUEEN MARIE ANTOINETTE

The French queen was once admired by the people but her popularity waned after rumours about her excesses surfaced. Misquoted as saying 'let them eat cake' after a scarcity of bread in Paris, she often made decisions in the stead of the indecisive Louis and appealed to Austria for help.



CHARLES DE CALONNE

Appointed Controller of General Finance in November 1783, Calonne was saddled with the heavy debt of France's involvement in America. Despite being a talented statesman, the expenditure was too much even for Calonne so he increased taxation. He was dismissed as parliament descended into chaos.



MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE

One man who saw the necessity for widespread reform was Robespierre who was elected president of the Jacobins in April 1790 after representing his hometown, Arras, in the Estates-General. He was the judge of the Revolutionary Tribunal and promoted the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*.



EMPEROR LEOPOLD II

The Holy Roman Emperor was the brother of Marie Antoinette, who appealed to him for aid when the revolution first began. He signed the Declaration of Pillnitz with King Frederick William of Prussia, which supported the French monarchy but shied away from war unless all the major European powers were committed to it.



MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

An aristocrat and major general in the American Revolutionary War, Lafayette wrote the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen that was adopted by the National Assembly. He was the commander of the National Guard of Paris and favoured a Constitutional monarchy with only limited democratisation throughout the state.



The arrest of Louis XVI and his family while disguising themselves as peasants

“MARIE ANTOINETTE HAD APPEALED TO HER ALLIES IN THE AUSTRIAN HABSBURG EMPIRE TO START A WAR AGAINST FRANCE FOR A LONG TIME PRIOR TO HER IMPRISONMENT”



The Siege of the Bastille demonstrated the power of the people

on what to do with Louis. The Girondists believed that his life should be spared, while the more forceful Jacobins (and their even more extreme splinter group, the Montagnard) called for the guillotine.

Maximilien Robespierre was a prominent Jacobin who firmly believed that if the republic was to live, the monarch must die. Robespierre’s popularity soared as he was elected president of the group. The infighting didn’t subside and the National Assembly disbanded in 1791 and was replaced by the Legislative Assembly that consisted of 745 members of which 330 were Jacobins. At the time, a little known army general by the name of Napoleon Bonaparte was an ardent supporter of the Jacobin cause and attempted to mobilise the population of his native Corsica into revolution. His vision and imperial ambition made the French First Republic an ideal launching pad for his imminent rise to power.

A continental issue

When the situation started to become desperate, the French monarchy looked abroad for assistance. Marie Antoinette had appealed to her allies in the Austrian Habsburg Empire to start a war against France for a long time prior to her imprisonment. There was a complex system of alliances between the European powers at the time and each nation was in a different condition.

On the verge of bankruptcy and still reeling from its disastrous loss of America, Britain was out for the count and could not wade into another war for at least a few years. The French monarchy’s closest ally was Austria, which had involved itself in the Habsburg-Bourbon condominium; a political alliance between the two countries that stemmed from closely related monarchies (Marie Antoinette was the sister of Austrian Emperor Leopold II). France’s other close relationship was with Spain with who they shared a mutual distrust of British Imperialism. The War of the Bavarian Succession (1778-1779) and the partition of Poland had weakened both Austria and Prussia so another costly war over France was not on the immediate agenda.

Instead of war mongering, the Declaration of Pillnitz was set up in 1792 after a meeting between Leopold II of Austria and King Frederick William of Prussia to support the monarchy and avert a full-scale European war. The declaration pledged support to the French royal family but insisted that no conflict would take place unless all the major powers agreed to do so. The revolution is often portrayed as a movement of the people, but there were

1778

WAR OF BAVARIAN SUCCESSION

A war between Prussia and Austria depletes the two countries’ resources and manpower. This is followed by the involvement of the European powers in the partition of Poland.

1783

TREATY OF PARIS

The American War of Independence formally ends with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The war has been very costly for France, which had waded in on the side of the USA to directly oppose British dominance.

1789

ESTATES-GENERAL MEETS

For the first time since 1614, the three representative assemblies of France – the clergy, the nobility and the majority Third Estate – meet together to discuss the dire economic situation throughout the nation.



1789

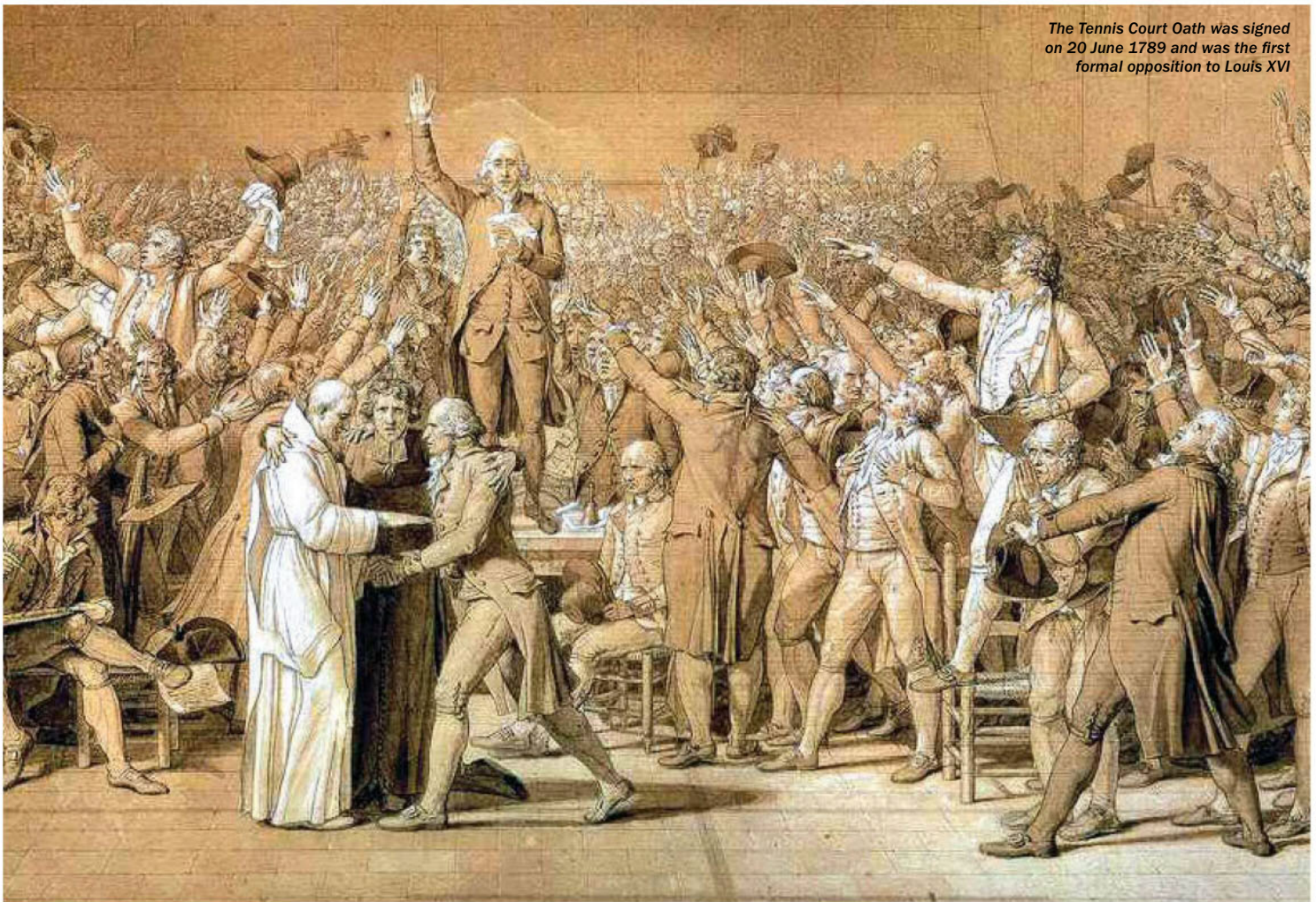
STORMING THE BASTILLE

The Bastille in Paris had long been a symbol of royal authority. Its capture by up to 10,000 revolutionaries dented royal power considerably and became a symbol of the people’s power against the bourgeoisie.

1789

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND CITIZEN

Inspired by the Declaration of Independence, the document was drawn up by General Lafayette. It outlines improvements for the rights of the common man and an improved law system



The Tennis Court Oath was signed on 20 June 1789 and was the first formal opposition to Louis XVI

some who opposed the uprising from within the French borders.

The royalists in the country followed the King and the monarchy but there was also the Feuillants, a club formed after Louis' ill-fated escape attempt. Led by disillusioned Jacobins, the group believed that the revolution was becoming far too radicalised and wanted to uphold the constitutional monarchy. The groups who opposed the revolution eventually formed the Armée des Émigrés, a counter-revolutionary force who had left the country and were ready and waiting for the ideal time to strike back. They wouldn't have long to wait. A major figure for the royalist cause was Marquis de Lafayette. A veteran of the French involvement in America, he returned to France as the head of the National Guard and a staunch protector of the monarchy. His popularity declined after his collusion with Louis' escape came to light.

“THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WAS ONE OF THE REVOLUTION’S GREATEST WEAPONS AND ALLOWED NEW IDEOLOGY AND FRESH VIEWS ON ECONOMICS, POLITICS AND SOCIETY”

A failed declaration

Ever since the revolution first began, the major powers in Europe watched on tentatively. The revolution concerned the other continental monarchies and they were anxious that if the coup succeeded in France, that the wave of revolution would spread throughout Europe. There was not much territorial gain available but the wave of revolutionary fervour could not spread on their watch. For Austria, Spain and Prussia, involvement in France was definitely in the *raison d’État*.

The Declaration of Pillnitz was designed to prevent both revolution in France and war on the continent but it failed to do both. The revolutionary government saw the declaration quite differently to the rest of Europe and used it as a call to arms against the monarchies of Europe. The French First Republic was still locked in an on-going dispute with its Haitian colony but was brave, or misguided, enough to call for a European conflict. On 20 April 1792, the Legislative Assembly declared war and the French Revolutionary Wars had begun.

1789

THE MARCH ON VERSAILLES
Angered by the shortage and rising prices of bread, a huge crowd of women from the Parisian marketplaces marched on the King's Palace of Versailles, demanding that Louis return to the capital.

1791

FLIGHT TO VARENNES
On the 21 June, the King and his immediate family attempt to secretly flee Paris to a royalist stronghold in Montmédy. They escape under the guise of nobles but are found out in the town of Varennes

1791

NEW CONSTITUTION DECLARED
The new French constitution is announced by the National Assembly and is a revised version of The Declaration of the Rights of Man. Louis is briefly restored to the throne of France.

1791

DECLARATION OF PILLNITZ
The leaders of Austria and Prussia meet and pledge support to Louis and the monarchy. The declaration was designed to avoid war but the French revolutionaries viewed it very differently.



1792

WAR IS DECLARED
The first French Revolutionary War begins on 20 April as the French Legislative Assembly declares war on the First Coalition, which is made up of Austria, Prussia Britain and Spain.

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RORRIKE'S

WORDS WILL LAWRENCE



RORKE'S DRIFT

In January 1879, 150 soldiers fought off over 3,000 Zulu warriors, earning 11 Victoria Crosses and a place in history

The siege at Rorke's Drift, an isolated rural outpost on the Natal border with Zululand, came in the wake of one of the British Army's most shocking defeats – the massacre at Isandlwana, which unfolded on 22 January 1879.

At this time, Britain controlled two provinces in South Africa – the Cape and Natal – and in 1877 had annexed the Transvaal from Boer settlers, thereby inheriting a long-running border dispute with the Zulu kingdom. The British High Commissioner felt this increasingly powerful realm, united under King Cetshwayo kaMpande and with a fighting force approaching 40,000, posed a threat to his nascent confederacy of states, so he set about engineering a military conflict.

Bloody dawn at Isandlwana

On 11 January 1879, the British launched a pre-emptive strike at Zululand under the command of the experienced African campaigner Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford. He assembled three columns, taking command of the central column himself, which he proposed would bear the brunt of the fighting with the two flanking columns poised to provide support and prevent the Zulu army slipping past him.

Chelmsford's main column comprised regular infantry in the form of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 24th Regiment, along with a battery of seven-pounder field guns, a regiment of the indigenous Natal Native Contingent and a light cavalry troop that included a number of local volunteers.

On his way to Zululand, Chelmsford stopped at Rorke's Drift, once a farm belonging to the intrepid pioneer Jim Rorke and latterly a Swedish missionary station. The post included two main buildings, a

RORKE'S DRIFT

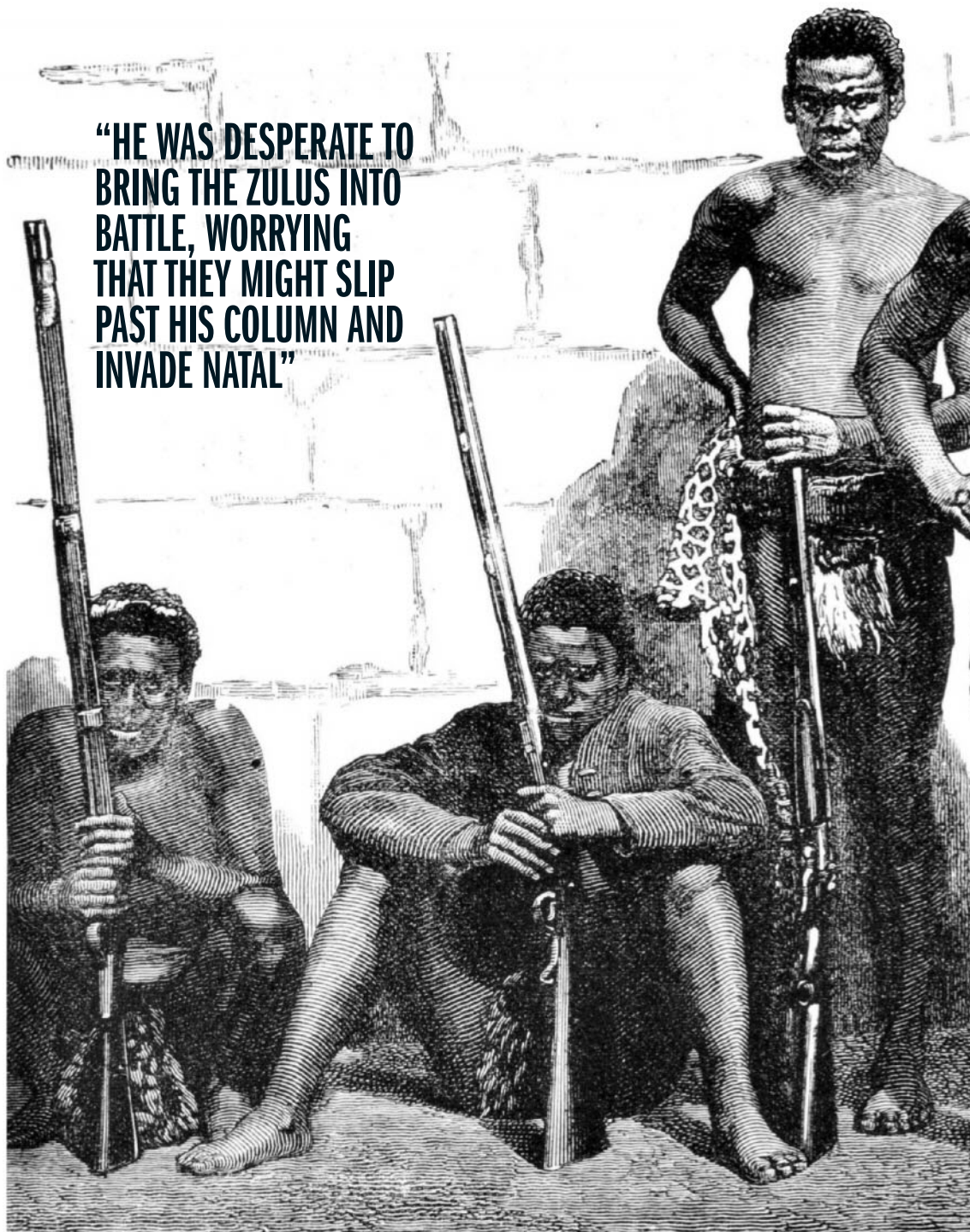
cookhouse and a pair of cattle corals, or kraals. One building Chelmsford pressed into service as a hospital, the other he transformed into a storehouse. He neglected to fortify the position, though he left a small garrison to man the post, from which he would provision his forces during the campaign.

His offensive began with the crossing of the Mzinyathi River from Rorke's Drift on the morning of 11 January. By 20 January, Chelmsford, struggling over rough terrain, had reached the sphinx-like rocky crest at Isandlwana, setting up camp on the forward slope. As at Rorke's Drift, he elected not to fortify his position, reasoning that he would not stay in the vicinity for very long. He was desperate to bring the Zulus into battle, worrying that they might slip past his column and invade Natal.

When his reconnaissance troops ran into a Zulu force that quickly melted away into the bush, this seemed to confirm his suspicions – the Zulus were avoiding battle. Resolute in his pursuit, Chelmsford decided to flush the army out. However, he didn't realise his men had encountered a skirmish unit and that the main Zulu army had already identified his position at Isandlwana. Unknown to the British commander, it was forming up in a valley just a few miles away.

Making a crucial mistake, Chelmsford split his force, leaving around 1,700 men behind while he sallied forth in a bid to locate the main Zulu army and force them into combat. While he was more than ten miles away, searching in vain for Cetshwayo, the main Zulu army readied itself for an assault on Isandlwana.

If properly arranged in defence of a fortified camp, the diminished British force would have stood an excellent chance of holding off the Zulu attack, but Chelmsford's negligence and the complacency of the officers still in camp left the British defenders in a perilous position. Believing that Chelmsford was out corralling the main Zulu army and that the warriors emerging in front of the British lines at Isandlwana formed only a small unit, the residing officers deployed their men in an open formation around a mile ahead of the main camp. They were confident that their firing arc, featuring the new Martini-Henry breech-loading rifles, would be strong enough to scatter the enemy.



“HE WAS DESPERATE TO BRING THE ZULUS INTO BATTLE, WORRYING THAT THEY MIGHT SLIP PAST HIS COLUMN AND INVADE NATAL”

THE HEROES OF RORKE'S DRIFT

ELEVEN VICTORIA CROSSES WERE AWARDED TO THE DEFENDERS AT RORKE'S DRIFT, INCLUDING...

LIEUTENANT JOHN CHARD

Age: 31
Commissioned into the Royal



Engineers in 1868, Chard did not arrive at Rorke's Drift until three days before the battle. Left in temporary charge of the garrison by Major Spalding, he belied his lack of battle experience by organising the defences and showing great leadership.

LIEUTENANT GONVILLE BROMHEAD

Age: 33
Attaining



his officer's commission three years after Chard, Bromhead was appointed second-in-command once Major Spalding had left Rorke's Drift, earning his VC by showing great gallantry throughout the defence. He was subsequently promoted to brevet Major.

JAMES DALTON

Age: 46
Having retired from the Army, Dalton



had enrolled as Acting Assistant Commissary with the British Force and superintended the organisation of the defence. He was among those receiving the first wave of attack. Although wounded, he continued to engage in the action.

CORPORAL CHRISTIAN SCHIESS

Age: 22
An NCO in the



Natal Native Contingent, his ill-fitting boots had forced him into the Rorke's Drift hospital, though he took a position on the perimeter once the defences were set. Despite taking a bullet to his foot and having his hat shot off, he dislodged several Zulus from a mealie bag barricade.

PRIVATE FREDERICK HITCH

Age: 22
Alongside



fellow VC winner Corporal Allen, Hitch kept communications at the hospital open, thereby allowing patients to be removed. Though wounded in the shoulder, he worked through the night, dispensing ammunition to his comrades before he finally collapsed.

PRIVATE HENRY HOOK

Age: 28
Fighting along with



John Williams VC, he held out in the hospital for over an hour, fighting until his ammo ran out. As the Zulus advanced through the building, these two burst through three partition walls and helped eight patients out to safety.



An engraving depicting Zulu prince kaMpande is seen here with warriors accompanied by their firearms

However, this was no mere skirmish unit – it was a muster of 20,000 spear-brave warriors, the cream of Cetshwayo's fighting force, and they were ready to bathe their spears in the invaders' blood. Forming up in a traditional 'horns of the bull' formation, the Zulus outflanked the British line, overwhelming the defenders with sheer weight of numbers. The superior British firepower was rendered redundant and a slaughter ensued.

Garrison fortifications

The men garrisoned at Rorke's Drift heard the distant gunfire at Isandlwana and cursed their luck. Many of them would have preferred what they presumed was a glorious victory over in Zululand to the interminable boredom of camp life in their barren outpost. How quickly their opinions changed. A string of refugees from the massacre began filtering back to their position,

many frantic with panic, leaving the officers in command with a decision to make. Should they defend the Drift or flee?

The decision fell to Lieutenant John Chard, who'd been appointed the commanding officer by the garrison chief, Major Spalding, in the wake of his departure earlier in the day to chivvy along a group of reinforcements that had failed to arrive. Lieutenant Chard was an engineer and had yet to see action, while his second in command, Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead, though possessed of some experience, had never shone in battle.

As they discussed options, a Commissariat officer, James Dalton, spoke up in favour of a defensive action, pointing out that with the wounded men from the hospital slowing them down, the Zulu force would overtake them and, out in the open, they'd have little chance. Chard agreed – they would make a stand.

MYTHS OF RORKE'S DRIFT

A NUMBER OF FALSITIES HAVE SPRUNG UP AROUND THIS LEGENDARY BATTLE, WITH MORE THAN A FEW PERPETUATED BY THE STIRRING 1964 FILM ZULU...

THE WELSH WON THE DAY

Though the film pitches the 24th Regt as Welsh, most of the defenders were in fact English. The regiment was based in Brecon in South Wales but, according to one source, 49 of the defenders at Rorke's Drift were English and just 14 were Welsh.

MEN OF HARLECH

A highlight in the 1964 film is the singing contest between the opposing forces in which the defenders belt out a rousing rendition of *Men Of Harlech*. This did not happen, though the sing-off constitutes a rousing and memorable piece of cinema.

THE ZULU SUICIDE BID

In another fantastic moment of cinema, the Zulu chief in the film sends out his men in a suicide mission to test the numbers of British rifles. This did not happen. It should also be noted that the Swedish missionary had already left his post prior to the attack and did not go mad. Neither was Pte Hook a drunkard.

THE ZULUS SALUTE THE DEFENDERS

A highlight in the film, no doubt, but the stirring moment when the retreating Zulus sing a salutary song to the beleaguered victors is a falsehood. War-torn and weary, the Zulu troops slunk away under cover of night, no doubt spurred on by Chelmsford's relief column arriving from Isandlwana.

ZULUS WITH MARTINI-HENRY RIFLES

The Zulus were definitely armed with rifles and muskets but they did not boast any of the new Martini-Henry rifles looted from the dead at Isandlwana. The Zulus fighting at Rorke's Drift had not engaged in the fighting earlier that day and therefore could not have picked up any of these powerful weapons.

Right: The Martini-Henry rifle was the formidable weapon available to the British garrison



The British troops soon got to work fortifying their position. The garrison was comprised of B Company from the 2nd Battalion of the 24th – usually containing 100 men, at Rorke's Drift B Company numbered only 95 men on duty. There were 30 wounded in the hospital, along with Surgeon Reynolds and three men from the Army Hospital Corps, and somewhere between 100-300 indigenous troops from the NNC with their white officers.

This force soon got the defences up and running; a barricade of biscuit boxes and mealie bags was run from a well-built stone kraal on the eastern edge of the camp along to the far western edge of the hospital. This barrier was around three-feet high and sat atop a ledge, giving the defenders a barrier that stood up to eight-feet tall all along the northern rim. A second barrier of mealie bags, which also incorporated two wagons, was run along the

RORKE'S DRIFT

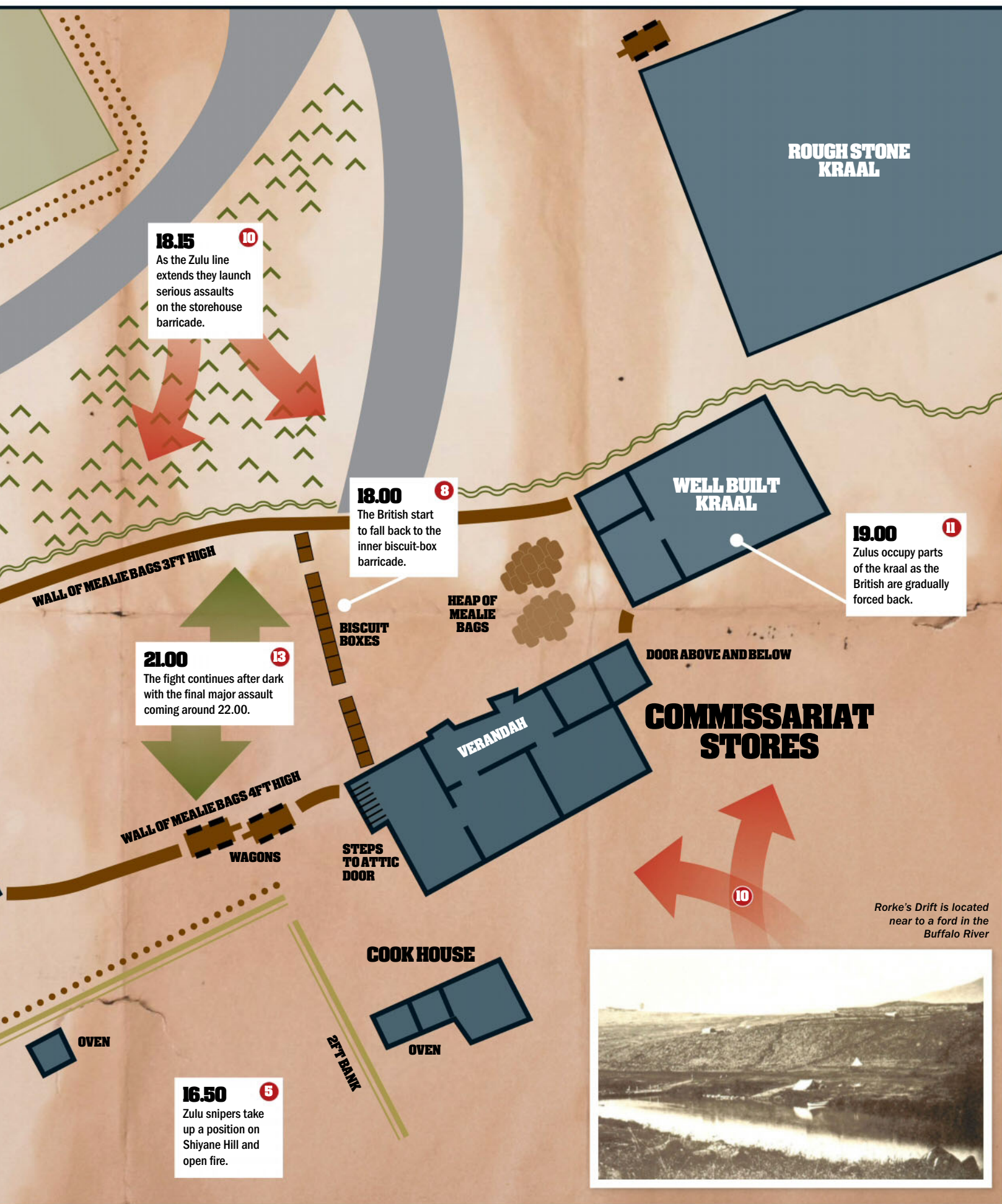


RORKE'S DRIFT

This spirited, if romanticised, depiction of the battle by Alphonse de Neuville shows the garrison defence in vibrant detail



A. de Neuville
1880



Rorke's Drift is located near to a ford in the Buffalo River



* Estimated timings

The Zulus sustained a constant volley of attacks and the British began to feel the pinch as the combatants came eyeball to eyeball, with the attackers desperately grabbing at the British muzzles and trying to rip them from the soldiers' hands.

During this second phase of combat, a number of individuals demonstrated extraordinary courage, not least Private Fred Hitch and the Commissariat officer, James Dalton, who according to Hitch was, "fearlessly exposing himself... cheering the men and using his own rifle most effectively." Lieutenants

Chard and Bromhead, meanwhile, proved their mettle, constantly moving along the line, plugging gaps and reinforcing weak points in the defensive line.

Non-combatants like Surgeon Reynolds and Chaplain Smith also showed great bravery, chivvying the men and distributing ammunition. Still, the pressure was beginning to take its toll and the casualties from the sniper fire on Shiyane Hill began to mount. At around 6pm Chard ordered his men to abandon the weak barricade in front of the hospital and retire to the inner biscuit-box barricade.

This was a sound strategic move, protecting the men from the sniper fire, while the inner biscuit-box barricade proved a formidable

barrier. Nevertheless, the retreat left the hospital and the wounded men inside seriously exposed. It was now down to the patients and half a dozen able-bodied men to try and hold this now-isolated position. The hospital fight would emerge as one of the most famous engagements at Rorke's Drift.

As dusk fell, the Zulus launched yet another attack, hoping to catch the retreating British line on the hop while also bidding to take possession of the hospital building. During the retreat, or sometime after, Private Hitch was shot in the shoulder and Bromhead leapt to his aid, firing his revolver at a man poised to spear him. Bromhead exchanged weapons with the wounded Hitch who fought on with a revolver for as long as he could. He then ferried ammunition to the other men before finally passing out.

In the hospital, around 20 armed patients and the six able-bodied soldiers kept up a steady fire, shooting through the windows and firing-holes knocked into the outside wall. Such was the press of Zulu numbers, however, the besiegers were soon right outside the hospital walls, grabbing at the British rifles or else firing their own weapons through the exposed firing-holes. Here Private Joseph Williams is said to have shot 14 of his enemies before he was finally overcome.

ZULU WARRIOR THE AFRICAN FIGHTING FORCE



HEADDRESS
Warriors wore elaborate headdresses to identify with their battle groups.

ASSEGAI
This stabbing weapon was usually around 60cm long and was deadly in close combat.

BASIC CLOTHING
In the heat of the African day, only simple animal skins needed to be worn, with rarer skins being worn by the higher ranking Zulu warriors.

SHIELD
Made from cowhide, these were also used as weapons in their own right, and their colour also identified the warrior's regiment.





Lieutenant Chard
pictured with his
Victoria Cross

For all their bravery, the defenders could not repel the Zulus who, once massed outside the hospital, set fire to its thatched roof, sending plumes of reeking smoke rolling into the building and inviting the now famous words of Private Henry Hook: "We were pinned like rats in a hole."

Pinned or not, it was here that Hook demonstrated extreme courage and saved the lives of many of the sick men, emerging as the sole defender in one of the rooms after the other men had fled. Eventually, he too was forced to fall back as black smoke engulfed the room, forcing him to abandon an NNC patient who the Zulus speared to death.

In the next room, a furious fight ensued as assegai and bayonet clashed. Hook received a spear to the head, his helmet deflecting its

killing power and leaving him with just a scalp wound. With only one door in or out of this room the defenders were in danger of being burned alive, so they hastily grabbed a pickaxe and forced a hole in the wall through which they escaped to the next room to start yet another ragged firefight.

Hook and his fellow defenders gradually worked their way eastward through the rooms and at one point had to break one patient's recently mended leg as they scrambled their way toward the final room in the building. Squashed into this space, they noted that the only escape route was a small window that opened into the yard, which had become a no-man's land now that the main British force had retreated behind the biscuit-box barricade.

If they remained in the building, they were doomed, so the able-bodied ferried the patients out through the window and into the yard where they had to crawl towards the safety of the biscuit-box barricade. One delirious patient refused to be moved and the defenders had to leave him to his fate.

Sunset and aftermath

Even as the battle raged inside the hospital, the Zulus had kept up a constant pressure on the cattle kraal, the storehouse and the biscuit-box barricade. At one point Corporal Christian Schiess, a NNC soldier who'd been in hospital before taking up a defensive position, took a bullet in the foot but still showed ferocious courage by abandoning the safety of the barricade to stand atop the wall and fire down on his assailants. When his hat was blown off by musket fire, he bent to retrieve it before bayoneting two men and shooting another dead.

The Zulu pressure was as intense as ever, as some brave warriors sought to fire the storehouse thatch and almost succeeded. One attacker was even shot down just as he lifted his torch. Once darkness fell, Assistant Commissary Walter Dunne formed a stack of spare mealie bags into a towering redoubt from which the defenders could fire down on their attackers.

Ordinarily, Zulus preferred not to fight after dark — a time of malevolent spiritual forces — yet their attacks continued with great intensity even as the sun set. As they forced the defenders out of the stone kraal, the British were left holding on to a tiny portion of their original position. But the British, though exhausted, were not done yet and they had luck on their side.

With the hospital now fully ablaze, the Zulu attackers were illuminated whenever they tried to move across the no-man's land inside the Rorke's Drift perimeter. Trooper Lugg of the Natal Mounted Police recalled that, "We poured bullets into them like hail. We could see them falling in scores." Still, the British could not hold out much longer. They had 20,000 rounds of ammunition at the battle's commencement — by the end, just 900 remained.

The final determined assaults came at sometime between 9-10pm and then the fighting finally abated. The last shots were fired at around 4am on the morning of 23 January. The Zulus had suffered terribly, with the British Martini-Henry weapons causing casualties estimated at up to 1,000 men. The British, meanwhile, lost just 15 men, with ten badly wounded, two of them mortally. It was a surprisingly small number — the thin red line had held firm.



The survivors of Rorke's
Drift, photographed
after the battle

THE AFTERMATH

THE TWO BATTLES ON 22 JANUARY PROVOKED A QUICK CONCLUSION TO THE ANGLO-ZULU WAR

Though the victory at Rorke's Drift did much to assuage the horror of the defeat at Isandlwana, it was not a strategically significant moment. Instead it demonstrated the efficacy of the British soldier if properly marshalled. Events of 22 January 1879 cost both sides dearly, though this proved harder to bear for King Cetshwayo's citizen army than it did for the Imperial British war machine. Though defeat at Isandlwana shattered Chelmsford's original invasion plan, he was granted fresh troops who pushed into Zululand. They scored a devastating victory against Cetshwayo's forces at the Battle of Kambula in March of the same year before winning the decisive Battle of Ulundi on 4 July. Cetshwayo was sent into exile and the Anglo-Zulu war had run its course.

"THE ZULUS HAD SUFFERED TERRIBLY, WITH THE BRITISH MARTINI-HENRY WEAPONS CAUSING CASUALTIES ESTIMATED AT UP TO 1,000 MEN"



Heroes of the Victoria Cross

LEONARD CHESHIRE

The bravest pilot in the daring Dambusters ran missions deep into German territory, but was changed by what he saw in Nagasaki

WORDS JACK PARSONS

Leonard Cheshire was renowned for taking risks even as a young man. At Oxford University he earned a reputation for “fast cars, reckless exploits, fantastic extravagance, mounting debts and shady associations,” according to one biographer. He set the undergraduate record – and made newspaper headlines – for the fastest drive from Hyde Park Corner, London, to Magdalen Bridge, Oxford, in his Alfa Romeo. He drove the same car through a cricket screen when visiting younger friends at Stowe, his old private school. If he had only left Oxford with his second-class degree in law and a series of unpaid speeding fines, Cheshire could have been written off as just another extravagant popinjay in an extravagant age. However, Cheshire also joined the Oxford University Air Squadron in 1936, setting him on a path that would provide an outlet for his derring-do – and test it to the limit.

Though Cheshire was a competent flyer, no one at the university air squadron thought him brilliant. So when he joined the Royal Air Force in June 1939 (three months before World War II was declared) he was sent to flight school in Hullavington. Never one to enjoy standing on the sidelines, this didn't stop Cheshire volunteering for the Russo-Finnish War before completing his training. Instead, in June 1940, he was assigned to 102 Squadron, Bomber Command.

One of the toughest roles in the RAF, Bomber Command was required to fly deep into enemy territory to take out German targets in Berlin, Bremen, Cologne, Essen and Kiel. Though they flew at night in order to avoid detection, they also had to fly low to hit their targets accurately, making them easy pickings for flak and anti-aircraft guns when they were spotted. Cheshire learnt this for himself in a raid on Cologne in



FOR VALOUR

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military honour awarded to service men and women in the Commonwealth. It is awarded for valour in the face of the enemy and can be given to anyone under military command.

WHY DID HE WIN IT?

For completing 100 missions with the RAF during World War II, leading the elite 617 Dambusters Squadron, with an unequalled record of success and pioneering a number of special bombing and marking techniques.

WHEN WAS HE AWARDED THE CROSS?

July 1944

WHAT DID LEONARD CHESHIRE DO NEXT?

After the war, Cheshire moved into charitable work and founded Leonard Cheshire Disability in 1948. Initially, Cheshire housed sick and impaired patients in his own home, but by 1955 the charity was running five separate residences.

November 1940 when a shell burst inside his aircraft, blowing out one side and starting a fire. Undeterred, he went on to bomb his target and returned home safely, earning himself a Distinguished Service Order.

Most of Cheshire's targets were power plants and factories. However, Bomber Command was also involved in so-called 'area bombing' – destroying civilian targets to terrify local people. On 16 December 1940, he was involved in a raid on Mannheim that had been chosen as a

reprisal for the bombing of Coventry. 130 aircraft took part, blitzing the town centre. In 20 May 1940, Cheshire participated in an even greater terror strike – along with over 1,000 other airmen – bombing the city of Cologne with 1,455 tons of bombs. For this Cheshire confessed “a slight chill in my heart” for his actions, but justified them as a means to an end.

A man seemingly without fear, Cheshire also became famous for flying lower than anyone else in 102 Squadron, releasing bombs on the Ruhr Valley from below 200 feet. When there wasn't anything for him to do, Cheshire would also volunteer for missions, carrying out a number of convoy patrols in addition to his bombing runs.

Proving courageous and determined time and time again, Cheshire was quickly promoted through the ranks. He was made the RAF's youngest group captain in August 1942, and was promoted again to station commander of Marston Moor in March 1943. Cheshire enjoyed the captaincy, but the station command position kept him out of the air. When the opportunity arose to lead the infamous Dambusters, Cheshire took a demotion, reverting back to the rank of Wing Commander.

Cheshire joined the Dambusters – or 617 Squadron, as it was officially known – in September 1943, four months after their renowned 'bouncing bomb' raid on the mighty Mohne dam. However, while subsequent missions are not as well remembered, they were arguably more important.

Though Cheshire had never been very academic – his old teacher and Stowe and author of *The Once And Future King*, TH White, described him as “not very gifted” – his many hours in the cockpit made him in an expert bomber. He pioneered new methods of marking

Praise for a hero

“One of the most remarkable men of his generation, perhaps the most remarkable.”

Leonard Cheshire's obituary, *The Independent*, Saturday 1 August 1992



Praise for a hero

“In four years of fighting against the bitterest opposition he maintained a standard of outstanding personal achievement, his successful operations being the result of careful planning, brilliant execution and supreme contempt for danger”

Victoria Cross citation, 1944

enemy targets with greater accuracy, thanks to his low flying. He even experimented with using different planes. Believing the US Air Force's Mustang fighter could make a better bomber than his de Havilland Mosquito, he borrowed one. After flying it around the airfield for a day, he took it on a bombing raid that same night.

Cheshire's precision targeting, coupled with the RAF's increasingly powerful bombs, was essential in fighting back against the Nazis' infamous V rockets. The Vergeltungswaffen ('vengeance') machines were long-range missiles, designed to rain explosives down on Britain without the need for vulnerable bomber aircraft. Hitler was convinced that his rockets would win the war for him, and with good reason. For example, the V2 rocket packed 2,000 pounds of explosives, and took only four seconds to reach its target at up to 3,500mph. It was feared because it came down from the stratosphere without warning – it could not be spotted in advance, nor shot down in flight.

Conventional bombing delayed the production of the weapon, otherwise up to 2,000 V1s with 1,900-pound warheads could have been launched on London every 24 hours. However, the launch sites for the rockets themselves were near impenetrable, as they were buried deep into cliffs or covered by thick concrete.

Cheshire and the Dambusters systematically knocked out these launch sites. On 24 June 1944, 617 Squadron attacked a V2 bunker at Wizernes, near the French coast. Not only was it built into a quarry, it was covered by a concrete dome, 230 feet across, 16.4 feet thick, weighing more than 50,000 tons and covering 4.3 miles (7km) of tunnels. Using a new type of RAF bomb known as Tallboy (after its 21-foot length), or an earthquake bomb for its devastating effect, the Dambusters hit it so hard that the buttresses of the Dome collapsed on one side, rendering it militarily useless.

On 6 July 1944, 617 attacked the Fortress of Mimoyecques, an underground rocket site that was building and preparing to use the even more powerful V3 cannon. Chester marked the target himself before the bombers hammered it with Tallboys. The bombers hit one of the shafts with a Tallboy that bored into the earth and exploded underground, leaving an enormous crater.

Though Cheshire performed many feats of bravery, he received the Victoria Cross for “four years of sustained courage, and bombing sorties in the face of heavy ground reaction”

and completing a staggering 100 missions, rather than one particular act. His citation from the king praised him for the “careful planning, brilliant execution and contempt for danger which has established for Wing Commander Cheshire a reputation second to none in Bomber Command.” In addition to being the youngest group captain, his VC also made him the most decorated.

After receiving the Victoria Cross, Cheshire was grounded again, but this did not mark the end of his RAF service. For his final mission, he was sent to the Pacific to be Britain's official observer for the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki. Rather than watching from a safe distance, Cheshire saw the bombing from the air. He flew alongside the crew of *The Big Stink*, one of the gigantic American B-29 Superfortresses configured to carry atomic bombs. The *Big Stink* closely shadowed the *Bockscar*, the B-29 carrying the devastating 'Fat Man' bomb. Cheshire was so close to the blast he had to wear welder's lenses to block out the intense light of the nuclear explosion, and his plane trembled from nose to tail from the consequent shockwave.

New York Times journalist William L. Laurence, who was also on *The Big Stink*, wrote how a giant pillar of purple fire over 10,000 feet high shot up from the blast with enormous speed. “Awe-struck, we watched it shoot upward like a meteor coming from the earth instead of from outer space, becoming ever more alive as it climbed skyward through the white clouds,” he wrote. “It was no longer smoke, or dust, or even a cloud of fire. It was a living thing, a new species of being, born right before our incredulous eyes.” Like Cheshire when he attacked Cologne, in 1943, Laurence felt the bombing was justified after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. However, this time Cheshire was profoundly affected by his experience.

Previously a lapsed Protestant, Cheshire converted to Catholicism after the bombing while hospitalised with tuberculosis for 18 months. Once invalided from the RAF in 1946, he committed himself “to achieve the kind of peace to which the key exists only in men's hearts.” He converted his own Hampshire home into a hospice, which grew into the charity Leonard Cheshire Disability, with hospices across the UK. He was given the title 'Baron Cheshire' in 1991 in recognition of his charitable work.

01 Night raid
Cheshire earned his first medal, a Distinguished Service Order, on 12 November 1940 during a routine raid on a synthetic oil plant at Wesseling, near Cologne. As soon as he dropped his first bomb, spotlights sprang up, along with anti-aircraft fire.

02 Danger strikes
A shell smashed through the front gun turret and out again, before exploding. A second shell burst through the port wing, setting off a flare inside, which knifed open the port side of the fuselage two-and-half metres wide.

Great Battles

IWO JIMA

After an arduous slog through the Pacific, US Marines mounted one final assault on Japanese forces in an attempt to unlock the mainland



WORDS JOSH BARNETT

IWO JIMA, SOUTH PACIFIC 19 FEBRUARY 1945 – 26 MARCH 1945

WHO

3rd, 4th and 5th US Marine Divisions battled against the Imperial Japanese Army's 109th Infantry.

WHAT

The battle of Iwo Jima was an amphibious assault resulting in one of the bloodiest battles seen in the Pacific theatre.

WHERE

Iwo Jima, a small island in the South Pacific's Volcano Island chain, 550 miles off the Japanese mainland.

WHY

Capturing three airfields to be used for damaged B-29 bombers returning from mainland sorties.

OUTCOME

It was the first time US casualties outnumbered their Japanese counterparts but the island was secured.



Freevortmaps.com; Corbis

After the decisive naval victory at the Battle of Midway in June 1942 (the first significant triumph in the Pacific for the Allies since Japan instigated the war at Pearl Harbor in December 1941), the US Navy was afforded some time to rebuild during 1943. Ships were in need of repair and refitting, seamen and ground troops required rest, and armaments needed replenishing.

It was during this lull that Chief of Command for the US's Pacific Fleet, Admiral Chester W Nimitz, refocused the tactics employed against the Japanese in the Pacific. Rather than take on the enemy direct, a campaign of island-hopping was instigated. Imperial forces had become heavily entrenched on certain key islands, making them difficult and costly targets for the Allies to capture. Instead, Nimitz's plan was to skirt around this nuclei, taking the less fortified islands in the Pacific as the US advanced towards the Japanese home islands.

The war was taking its toll on the Japanese as the US gained the upper hand in both the sea and the air. To make matters worse, Japanese cyphers were easily decoded by US intelligence, who kept Allied forces one step ahead of their enemy at all times. It was this advantage that led to the death of Marshal Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto (Nimitz's opposite number) in April 1943.

After the Japanese defeat at Guadalcanal, Yamamoto decided to go on a moral-boosting inspection of the South Pacific. Word of the Japanese Commander in Chief's plans reached US Navy intelligence, leading President Franklin D Roosevelt to give the order: "Get Yamamoto". On the morning of the 18 April, the commander's plane was shot down by US forces, dealing an embarrassing blow to the Imperial Japanese Navy.

By April 1944, with momentum firmly on their side, US forces recaptured the Marshall Islands. Later the same year, it was the turn of the Mariana and Caroline Islands to fall into Allied hands, as plans for the invasion of Okinawa continued apace. The Japanese mainland was, metaphorically, in sight, with just one remaining target: Iwo Jima.

Located 650 miles south of Tokyo in the Volcanic Islands cluster, Iwo Jima was home to two Japanese airstrips (with a third under

The US Navy Sixth Fleet photographed during the Battle of Iwo Jima



construction at the north end of the island). The US believed this small island, just eight square miles in size, to be a strategic necessity for mainland attacks. If it could be captured, the island would be used as a base for escort fighters, as well as a landing patch for damaged B-29 bombers returning from the mainland.

The Japanese had also recognised the importance of Iwo Jima and, under the command of General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, began constructing numerous inland bunkers in the summer of 1944, a noted departure from the usual beach fortifications used by the Imperial Japanese forces. US aerial and submarine reconnaissance showed the supposed scale, with 642 pillboxes, blockhouses and other gun positions identified prior to the assault.

A summer-long barrage designed to incapacitate the staunch Japanese defences ensued. For 74 days straight, US bombers pummelled this tiny blot of volcanic rock, while in the 72 hours running up to the invasion, the US Navy peppered Iwo Jima with shells, shattering the peace of this once idyllic South Pacific island.

The invasion begins

Codenamed 'Operation Detachment', the invasion proper began on 19 February 1945. The assault was tasked to the V Amphibious Marine Corps, led by General Holland 'Howlin' Mad' Smith, Commanding General for the expeditionary troops once ashore. H-Hour was set for 09:00, with the initial wave of armoured amphibian tractors coming ashore at 09:02 followed, three minutes later, by the first troop-carrying vehicles.

Spilling down the ramps, the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions (led by Major General Clifton B Cates and Major General Keller E Rockey respectively) waded through the ankle-deep volcanic ash of Iwo Jima's south-western shore unopposed. The pre-invasion bombardment appeared to have cleared the island. However, unknown to the US forces, Kuribayashi's 109th Infantry Division was holed up in a network of over 5,000 caves and 11 miles of tunnels around Iwo Jima, waiting for the landing force's shelling to cease before showing their resistance.

There were murmurs among the US troops that the Japanese forces had been wiped out as the beach remained eerily quiet – a marked departure from previous infantry battles in the Pacific where shorelines were staunchly defended. The landing plans tasked the 5th Division's 28th Regiment with taking Mount Suribachi, the 554-foot dormant volcano at the island's southern-most tip, by the end of D-Day. Likewise, the 4th Division was scheduled to take Airfield 1 the same day. In the calm of the initial landing, both plans seemed achievable yet, as the leading battalions crested the terrace at the end of the beach, General Kuribayashi gave the order to take up weapons.

The unmistakable chatter of machine gun fire from hidden Japanese emplacements cut down the initial waves of US troops, as artillery and mortar fire now began to pound the beaches. The soft volcanic soil, churned by the pre-invasion barrage, proved difficult to move through at pace, slowing the US advance. To make matters worse, fortifications on Mount Suribachi (protected by reinforced steel doors) rained down shells on the troops below.



“UNKNOWN TO THE US FORCES, KURIBAYASHI'S 109TH INFANTRY DIVISION WAS HOLED UP IN A NETWORK OF OVER 5,000 CAVES AND 11 MILES OF TUNNELS”

Once the US Marines established a beachhead, the gradual grinding down of Japanese resistance began



Despite landing some 30,000 men, progress was slow and, by the time the US advance was called to a halt at 18:00, the Marine line fell well short of their D-Day targets. Still, Mount Suribachi's north-eastern side had been surrounded by the 28th Regiment. The 5th's 27th Regiment had been able to push towards the north-western coastline but had taken heavy casualties in doing so, while the 4th Division skirted around Airfield 1's southern perimeter, securing a line towards the quarry near East Boat Basin.

During previous battles, Japanese banzai charges had caused considerable chaos throughout the night and, expecting similar attacks, US forces remained vigilant during darkness. General Kuribayashi did not believe in the usefulness of such tactics, though, feeling the banzai charge was a needless loss of life. This allowed the 3rd Battalion, 13th Marines (the artillery support for the 28th Regiment) to launch mortar and 105mm Howitzer shell attacks on Mount Suribachi during the evening of 19 February in preparation of an ascent the next morning.

Capturing Mount Suribachi

Formulated by the 28th's leader, Colonel Harry B Liversedge, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions plunged forward at 08:30 on 20 February, with the 1st Battalion remaining in reserve. With regular gunfire proving useless against the Japanese emplacements, US troops turned to their trusty flamethrowers and grenades to flush defenders

out of their foxholes. However, the Japanese (thanks to their comprehensive tunnel network) soon re-manned each supposedly clear pillbox. It would be a tactic that kept US forces fighting on all fronts across the island, keeping the Marines' progress to a minimum.

Just 200 yards of Mount Suribachi had been taken by 17:00 on D+1. The following day, Liversedge's Marines attacked again after a 40-plane airstrike. With all three battalions heaving forward on one front, and with effective support from tanks and artillery, the 28th Regiment surged to the foot of the mountain. With the naval support covering the western side, the Marines had Suribachi surrounded by 22 February.

Finally, a day later, after reconnaissance from 2nd Battalion, a 40-man combat patrol was sent to the summit upon the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Chandler W Johnson. Under the command of First Lieutenant Harold G Schrier, they stormed the summit, raising a small US flag while under intense fire from the remaining Japanese troops. Later that day, a larger flag would be raised in order to boost the moral of Marines across the island.

While the 28th Marine Regiment was still on Suribachi, the 26th and 27th Regiments of the 5th Division had pushed to Iwo Jima's western coast with suicidal rapidity, beginning their journey to the island's north sector on 20 February. Meanwhile, the 4th Division's 23rd, 24th and 25th Regiments had secured 'Motoyama 1', the southern-most airfield. With

OPPOSING FORCES



US LEADER

General Holland Smith

US INFANTRY

1 Amphibious Corps (3 US Marine Divisions)

TANKS

c.150 M4A3 Sherman tanks (including 8 with the Mark 1 napalm flamethrower)

US GAME CHANGERS

The sheer number of men (around 70,000) thrown into battle over the course of the 36-day invasion.



General Holland Smith



JAPAN LEADER

General Tadamichi Kuribayashi

JAPAN INFANTRY

1 Imperial Infantry Division

TANKS

22 from Lieutenant Colonel Baron Takeichi Nishi's 26th Tank Regiment

JAPAN GAME CHANGERS

11 miles of tunnels, 642 pillboxes and 5,000 caves dotted around the island, along with the Japanese Infantry's tenacious defence.



General Tadamichi Kuribayashi

the 5th Division surging the Marine line forward by around 1,000 yards, only the 23rd Regiment (fighting on the 4th Division's left flank) could keep advancing at a similar pace.

Compared with the southern half of Iwo Jima, the northern sector was extremely well fortified, thanks to the efforts of Kuribayashi's men during that summer of 1944. The US Marines were finding the rocky terrain tough to negotiate, with every cleared pillbox and fortification soon reoccupied by Japanese forces, who were putting up a staunch and bloody resistance. Any gain was seemingly met with renewed fire from the shellproof artillery emplacements and well-hidden tanks.

To aid the 4th Division's charge, General Cates called the 21st Regiment of the 3rd Division ashore on 21 February. However, with Japanese forces pinning down the 25th Regiment on the eastern shores, the beach was congested, forcing the 3rd Division's relief through the centre of the Marine Corps line in place of the 23rd Regiment. By the morning of the 22nd, frontline units were beginning to be relieved, with the fresh Marine forces able to grind out short territorial gains. Yet, Kuribayashi's men were alert to the fresh threat, pinning down units that were about to be replaced.

On D+4, V Marine Corps' Major General Harry Schmidt came ashore to survey the damage, ordering an attack the following morning. 24 February dawned with tanks thrusting through towards the second airfield, supported by the 21st Regiment. The 5th Division's tanks flanked Motoyama 2's western edge, while the 4th Division armour edged forward on the airstrip's east perimeter. Aided by a 76-minute naval bombardment, the US Marines were advancing once again.

Into the meat grinder

The same day, the remaining regiments of Major General Graves B Erskine's 3rd Division were committed to Iwo Jima. The veteran division was tasked with advancing through the supposedly flat centre line of the island, going head-on into Kuribayashi's main defensive line on 25 February. With flame-throwing tanks incinerating the enemy (and 50 per cent of the corps' artillery missions aiding the 3rd Division) three days of toil finally paid off on the evening of 27 February.

The Japanese line cracked, and the 9th Regiment found itself controlling two hills north of the second airfield, while the following day, the 21st Regiment stormed through the remnants of Motoyama village to seize two hills commanding over the unfinished airfield three. Elsewhere, the 5th Division had secured 'Hill 362A' after initial resistance from the Japanese proved deadly. 224 of the Division's Marines were killed or wounded on 1 March, but the hill's access to Nishi Ridge on the north-west edge of the island was too important to bypass.

While many hills had fallen with relative ease, Hill 382 on the eastern edge of the island was proving a more difficult proposition for the 4th Division. Honeycombed with Kuribayashi's tunnels, the hill's approach was guarded by hidden tanks, while the crest had been fortified into a huge artillery-proof bunker.

Great Battles

1945 IWO JIMA



02 On 22 February, during the siege on Suribachi, the US support carrier, USS Bismarck Sea is sunk after being strung by a string of kamikaze attacks from Japanese planes. A day later, though, Marines raise the flag atop the mountain, with the moment immortalised on camera by Associated Press' Joe Rosenthal.

03 The northern half of the island sees much more Japanese fortification. Many of Baron Nishi's tanks have been buried up to the turret, providing camouflaged emplacements that decimate the 4th Division's progress and require General Erskine's 3rd Division to be brought on shore en masse on D+4.

04 After four days in 'the meat grinder', the Marines focus their efforts on Hill 382, north of the 'amphitheatre'. Naval guns, artillery and air strikes aid the 24th Regiment's attack but, despite gaining a footing on 'Turkey Knob', the US forces have to retreat under the cover of a smoke screen just before dark on 1 March.

05 Finding a 300-strong Japanese stronghold just a few hundred yards from the sea, the 4th Division delays an attack at 07:00 on 12 March to try and coax the Imperial forces to surrender. However, a problem with the generator-powered loudspeaker sees snipers pick off a number of Marines, provoking the US troops to fight back at 09:00 with grenades and flamethrowers.

06 With the fighting all but done, the 5th Division's 28th Regiment find themselves faced with a gorge full of caves and some 500 ill-organised Japanese infantry. Two prisoners of war are used to translate a surrender appeal but, despite returning alive, the US troops are forced to pick off Kuribayashi's remaining troops one-by-one.

01 Although the amphibious invasion will begin on Iwo Jima's southern beaches on 19 February 1945, the first US air strike against the island hits the black, volcanic soil on 15 June 1944, with US bombers based in Saipan flying hundreds of offensive sorties.

“THE US MARINES WERE FINDING THE ROCKY TERRAIN TOUGH TO NEGOTIATE, WITH EVERY CLEARED PILLBOX AND FORTIFICATION SOON REOCCUPIED BY JAPANESE FORCES WHO WERE PUTTING UP A STAUNCH AND BLOODY RESISTANCE”



A US Marine crouches near the corpse of a Japanese officer

The original US flag raised on the top of Mount Suribachi once it had been taken



South of the hill was a series of ridges, topped by 'Turkey Knob', while further south of this massive rock was a natural bowl known as the 'Amphitheatre'. The fighting here was bloody, with 1 March the fourth day that the division's Marines had hurled themselves at the Japanese forces. Such was the relentlessness of this quadrant, it became known as the 'meat grinder'. It wasn't until 10 March that the Japanese defenders around 'Turkey Knob' were eliminated. Naval fire, carrier air strikes, heavy shelling and many Marine lives were needed before Hill 382 finally fell into US hands.

In this time, the 5th Division's 26th Regiment had succeeded in securing 'Hill 362B' on 3 March, before the 3rd Division readied itself for the assault on 'Hill 362C' four days later. Under cover of darkness (a departure from the usual US tactics in the Pacific), General Erskine's men advanced beyond the unsuspecting Japanese forces. It was a blow for the General Kuribayashi, yet his men remained to resist strongly in their lasting areas of occupation.

Unfortunately for Imperial Japan, their attacks were becoming increasingly uncoordinated, allowing patrols from the 3rd Marine Division to reach the northern coast by 9 March. The following evening, there was only one final pocket of Japanese resistance left in the division's sector, although the tunnels underneath the ground gave many more fanatical infantry a hiding place.

In the eastern sector, home of the 4th Division, Japanese troops launched a counterattack on 8 March. Under the cover of heavy artillery fire, the men attacked the Marine forces, worming their way through the 23rd and 24th Regiment's lines. Some attacked with the blood-curdling banzai cry, though many chose a stealthier approach, attempting to impersonate wounded US soldiers. Despite the counterattack's ingenuity, it was an ultimately hopeless effort that saw 650 Japanese killed by noon the following day. The end result was that, on 10 March, the Turkey Knob/ Amphitheatre salient was completely destroyed as Marine forces pushed Kuribayashi's defences right back to the northern coast.

Clearing up the north

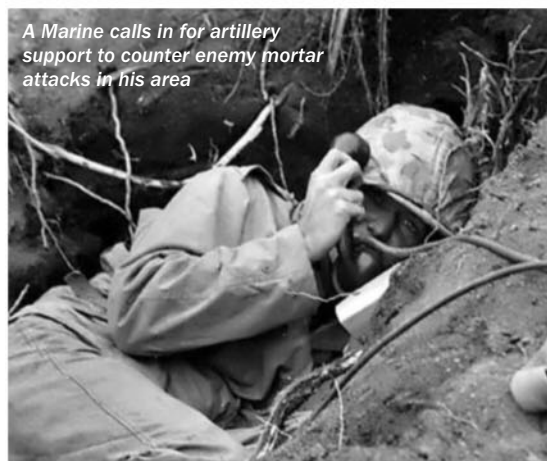
For the remainder of Operation Detachment, each Marine division would be faced with isolated pockets of resistance dotted around Iwo Jima. The 3rd Division was tasked with the grim job of destroying a heavily fortified resistance south-west of Hill 362C (eventually achieved on 16 March), while the 4th Division focused on an enemy stronghold between East Boat Basin and Tachiwa Point.

Across the island, 5th Division bore down on Japanese forces around Kitano Point, the last point of defence in the Iwo Jima campaign. Joined by two battalions of the 3rd Division's 21st Regiment, the final Marine drive began on 11 March with naval shelling and airstrikes. The US artillery again had little impact, though, making initial progress painstaking.

Despite being ravaged since the initial landing on 19 February, the 5th Division carved through 1,000 yards between 14-15 March, as many of the Japanese troops met a fiery end at the hands of the Marines' flame-throwing tanks.



US Amtracs became stuck in the churned up sand of Iwo Jima's beaches



A Marine calls in for artillery support to counter enemy mortar attacks in his area



A heavy naval bombardment began the US offensive

“OF THE 20,060 JAPANESE TROOPS ON THE ISLAND, ONLY 216 WERE EVER CAPTURED, WITH ROUGHLY 300 LEFT HIDING IN THE TUNNELS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WAR”

The following day, the 21st Regiment flanked the Japanese on the right, providing the US forces with two attack fronts to decimate the remaining Imperial forces.

By 25 March, organised enemy resistance was declared over. However, Kuribayashi's men had one final assault up their sleeve. In the vicinity of Motoyama 2, some 300 men assembled that evening. On the morning of the 26 March 1945, they stormed the US camp, killing sleeping Marines at will until a defensive line was formed by the Americans as dawn broke, sending the remaining Japanese into hiding. After 36 days, the Battle of Iwo Jima became a manhunt, with at least 223 Japanese soldiers hunted and killed. General Kuribayashi was rumoured to have been among those slain, bringing to an end a bloody conflict that saw more than 70,000 Marines deployed.

Of the 20,060 Japanese troops on the island, only 216 were ever captured, with roughly 300 left hiding in the tunnels for the remainder of the war. On the US side, 5,931 Marines were killed, with a further 17,372 injured – the only time in the Pacific theatre that American casualties outnumbered those of the Japanese. General Holland Smith had “thrown human flesh against reinforced concrete” in taking Iwo Jima. Yet, in the ensuing aerial war against the Japanese mainland, over 2,200 heavy bombers made unscheduled landings on the island's airstrips, saving 24,761 US airmen from potential disaster.

Iwo Jima was a grim yet inspirational victory for the Americans that demoralised their enemy. Mainland Japan had never seemed closer to the United States. A final victory in the Pacific was in sight.

RAJPUTS

THE WARRIOR PRINCES OF INDIA

WORDS MIGUEL MIRANDA



With their heritage steeped in blood and sacrifice, the Rajputs time and again faced annihilation against impossible odds – and triumphed. Discover why the legacy of ‘India’s Samurai’ has endured invading empires and world wars...

Providence could not have endowed a more difficult setting for India's greatest romance. Along the periphery of the Thar Desert, beyond the undulating dunes and thorny brush, are the Rajput nations. From Gujarat in the west until Delhi and the foothills of Kashmir, there existed since time immemorial glittering kingdoms ruled by fighting men. Yet it was in the Indian subcontinent's arid north, the realm of the harrier and desert fox, where Rajputana came to be. It was a land where rugged noblemen hunted game, built magnificent strongholds, and repelled the tides of conquest.

They are the 'sons of kings', divided among clans whose ancestry dates so far beyond recorded time that descendants claim divine origins. Among the Rajput clans, some trace their descent from the Sun, others the Moon,

and still others believed their lineage came from fire.

Until modern times, the prevailing consensus as to the Rajputs' point of origin was an Aryan descent from India's mythical age. This unsubstantiated belief in a shared heritage with white Europeans later provided ample justification for the British Empire's designs on the subcontinent. Furthermore, no single source gives a complete index of the Rajput families. The English soldier and adventurer Lt Col James Tod's *Annals And Antiquities Of Rajasthan* is the seminal volume about these soldier-aristocrats and remains the best introduction to the subject.

Divided among three dozen clans and even more sub-clans, many notable surnames stand distinguished in the historical

Far left: 'The Heroic Warrior Personifies Heroism and Fury', from a Ragamala of a provincial Mughal Rajput school

Below, left: John Pinkerton's map of India circa 1818, showing the country's regions

“THEY ARE THE ‘SONS OF KINGS’, DIVIDED AMONG CLANS WHOSE ANCESTRY DATES SO FAR BEYOND RECORDED TIME THAT DESCENDANTS CLAIM DIVINE ORIGINS”



record. Consider the Chauhan clan, who once ruled Delhi before the Afghan conqueror Muhammad Guri vanquished them in the 12th Century. It is the Guhilot clan, however, who would conceive of India's greatest fortress: Chittorgarh. Seized from its former masters whose fortunes ebbed with the decline of an ancient empire – of which many are found across India – the Guhilots held Chittorgarh for several centuries and grew wealthy from its country, the kingdom of Mewar.

But why did Will Durant, in his *The Story Of Civilization: Our Oriental Heritage*, compare the Rajputs to Samurai? Perhaps it was their preoccupation with honour, a trait manifested in another well-known clan, the Sisodyas, who in the early 14th Century replaced the Guhilots as overlords of Mewar. Like the Samurai, the Rajputs had their own code of conduct. Theirs was detailed in no less than the Mahabharata, Hindu civilisation's epic poem. In it, the Hindu Kshatriya, or warrior caste, were beseeched to always fight fair and observe correctness in their doings. No conquest should be followed by plunder, no victory accompanied by the dishonour of one's foes. Importantly, combat was a rite where cool heads prevailed. "A Man should fight righteously without yielding to wrath or intending to slay," the Mahabharata read.

On the other hand, it was Tod the chronicler of Rajasthan who found parallels

Right: A depiction of the Rajput ceremony of Jauhar, where a fortress's women self-immolate rather than be taken prisoner by an enemy



THE MOTHER OF ALL FORTRESSES BEHIND THE WALLS OF THE CHITTORGARH COMPLEX

The gahr of Chittor is an impressive monument to Rajput defiance. Its origins, like the Rajputs, are a matter of speculation. What is beyond doubt, however, is it has overcome the ravages of siege and despoilment and remained very much intact.

Chittorgarh first became a Rajput possession in the 7th Century CE when Bappa Rawal of the Guhilot clan seized it from another Kshatriya group. Bappa Rawal's control of Chittorgarh assured his dominion over the kingdom of Mewar.

Chittorgarh's exterior presented a conundrum for any

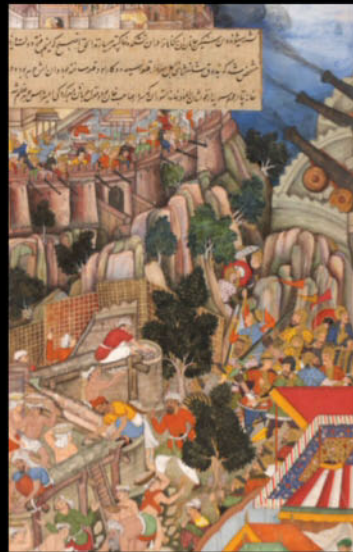
attacker. Its eight kilometres of rounded battlements were designed to withstand projectiles from siege engines. An ample water supply from wells along with vast store rooms meant thousands could be succoured within the fortress. Over the centuries, Chittorgarh was improved and beautified by successive rulers, especially once the Guhilot power ebbed and was replaced by the Sisodyas. It was during Maharana Kumbha's reign in the mid-15th Century that the ornate Vijay Stambha or Victory Tower was erected.

Chittor only fell to invaders three times: to Alauddin the Khalji in 1303, Bahadur Shah of Gujarat in 1535, and the Mughal Akbar in 1568. Combining aspects of the Trojan War and the Hebrew Masada, Chittorgarh first succumbed to an invader in the 13th Century when Alauddin of the Khaljis set forth to win the hand of

"THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN, MEANWHILE, IMMOLATED THEMSELVES IN A MASSIVE PYRE"



This Indian watercolour from the 1590s depicts the immolation of the Rajput women during the Siege of Chittor in 1563



Another page from the Akbarnama shows the fort's mine explode



The Moghul army overwhelms Chittorgarh's defences

The fortress as it appears today – for the most part still in tact



between the Rajputs and European knights, a comparison that no doubt resonated with his fellow Englishmen raised on Walter Scott and Cervantes, for whom the echoes of medieval pageantry rang with sweet nostalgia. Meanwhile, another historian, Mountstuart Elphinstone, agreed with Tod's portrayal yet drew a different assessment of the Rajputs. "They had not the high-strained sentiments and artificial refinements of our knights," Elphinstone concluded, while lauding their fighting spirit.

The warrior caste, defined

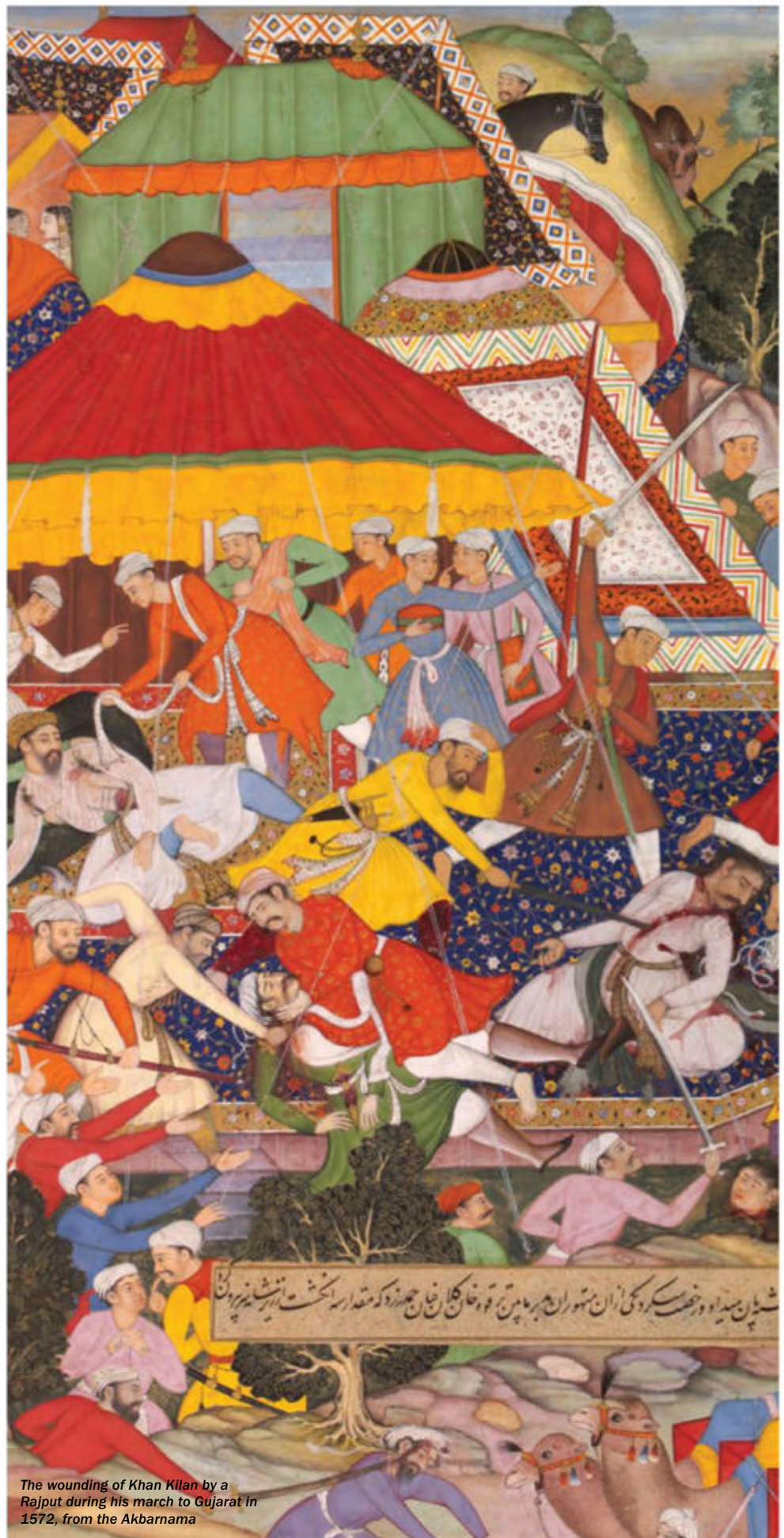
One of the first serious writers on India, James Mill, philosopher John Stuart Mill's father, produced *The History Of British India*, a ground-breaking work that sought to explain the nuances of the Hindu world.

Mill claimed that once land ownership supplanted pastoral society, it was imperative for a religious class, or the priestly Brahmin, to coexist with fighting men who would protect them: the fabled Kshatriya. "To bear arms is the peculiar duty of the Kshatriya [sic] caste," he wrote. "And their maintenance is derived from the provision made by the sovereign for his soldiers."

Below these exalted social strata, according to Mill, were two lower castes of common labourers and even less reputable, and not mentioned, are the untouchables.

Padmini, a beautiful Rajput queen. But the Rajput defence was indomitable. It was only by superior numbers that Alauddin's soldiers prevailed. Once victorious, however, they realised all the inhabitants had committed ritual suicide.

The Mughal Emperor Akbar witnessed the same holocaust when he besieged Chittorgarh from 1567 to 1568. Like Bahadur Shah, Chittorgarh could only be taken if a section of its wall was demolished by a mine. Facing imminent defeat against overwhelming odds, the Rajputs attacked the Mughal encampment until they were slaughtered to a man. Their wives and children, meanwhile, immolated themselves in a massive pyre. These scenes are vividly illustrated in Akbar's memoir, the Akbarnama.



The wounding of Khan Kilan by a Rajput during his march to Gujarat in 1572, from the Akbarnama

The provisions Mill referred to, in the case of the Rajput, were more than adequate. The quintessential Rajput warrior, middle-aged and seasoned by at least several campaigns, was a swarthy gentleman fond of the hunt and the pleasant diversions befitting a nobleman.

His face adorned by a flowing moustache, head wrapped in a turban dyed the colours of his clan, the Rajput was a dapper fellow. Come war time, a steel helmet crowned his head and astride his mount the warrior sallied forth with a lance and a round shield – the latter perfect for single combat.

When it came to the preferred mode of fighting, cavalry raids were a perennial favourite and very effective against their Turkic adversaries. Once mounted on either a Kathiawari or Marwari horse, Rajput formations wrought havoc on enemy formations.

Always prepared to meet his end, the Rajput fought in a shirt of mail and tied around his waist was a bright coloured sash that held two sheathed talwars (curved swords akin to the Arabian scimitar), and the fearsome katar dagger for dealing mortal blows at close quarters. Other warriors preferred the heavier khanda, a lengthy single-edged blade similar to a cutlass that was ideal for slicing through armour.

In later centuries the Rajputs would embrace the firearm. When the matchlock arrived in India via the Mughals, it was widely adopted and used until the late 19th Century. Despite this seeming prowess, Mill, for some inexplicable reason, was quick to dismiss the fighting prowess of Hindus. “Yet has India given way to every conqueror,” he observed.

This conclusion betrays a lapse in Mill’s scholarship. Apparently, he failed to acknowledge how numerous Rajput clans repelled invasions from the time of Alexander the Great to the Persian Nadir Shah in the 18th Century. But deriding the Hindu was a distasteful consequence of British imperialism. The irony is during the British Raj in the latter 19th Century, it was fashionable to commend so-called “warrior” or “martial” races within Indian society.

A dated but superb example is *The Martial Races Of India* by Lieutenant General George MacMunn, written and published after the Great War. Another similar text is *The Sepoy*

“THE RISE OF THE MUGHALS SIGNALLED THE GREATEST TRIBULATION FORCED ON RAJPUTANA’S KINGDOMS”

by Edmund Candler published around the very same period.

Both Candler and MacMunn were in agreement as to the valour and toughness of the Rajputs and the Jats, the Gurkhas and the Sikhs, even the “Mussulman” Pathans and the Mughals.

Constant invasion

These clans formed a prosperous civilization, until the 18th Century when enterprising warlords across Central Asia saw India as a source of loot for their armies. The geography of the Rajput kingdoms, including Mewar, meant the Kshatriyas had no choice but to thwart these onslaughts or be dispossessed.

While Rajput cavalry could best the seasoned Turks, Afghans, and Mongols, many catastrophic defeats were also dealt by the would-be conquerors. Of ruinous portent was the arrival of Zahiruddin Babur (14 February 1483 - 26 December 1530), who sought to expand his tenuous control over Kabul by annexing Delhi and its surroundings. Babur might have perished at an early age, but he left a son, Humayun (6 March 1508 - January 1556), to finish what he started. The rise of the Mughals signalled the greatest tribulation forced on Rajputana’s kingdoms.

It was during the reign of Akbar (5 October 1542 - 12 October 1605), considered the most accomplished Muslim ruler in his era, when Mewar’s ruling Sisodia clan was humbled and their country almost ruined.

Having failed in compelling a union with his growing empire, the cosmopolitan Akbar sought to annex the kingdom of Mewar. It was sheer luck that the current Sisodia Maharana Udai Singh II was a weakling and once the siege commenced on October 1567, he quickly abandoned the fortress.

Akbar used the enormous wealth at his disposal to raise an army equipped with cannon



FROM CONQUERORS TO VASSALS OVER A THOUSAND YEARS OF RAJPUT HISTORY

734

THE JEWEL OF RAJPUTANA
During the Arab Rajput War, Raja Bappa Rawal, of the Guhilot Dynasty, seizes Chittorgarh. He becomes the ruler of the Mewar kingdom after the climactic Battle of Rajasthan.

1192

ISLAM MAKES ITS INROADS
The Afghan Muhammad Guri defeats the Rajput ruler of Delhi, Prithvi Raj Chauhan. After 400 years of successive Muslim invasions, Muhammad Guri becomes the first Turkic warlord to claim Delhi as his own.

1303

THE FIRST GREAT DESPOILMENT
After a protracted siege, Chittor falls to Alauddin, the ruler of the Khaljis. All the defenders are killed. Their wives and children commit suicide by Jauhar.

1527

THE GOLDEN AGE ENDS
After a century of independence, the kingdoms of Rajputana now have to contend with the ambitious Mughals. In this year, Zahiruddin Babur, a descendant of both Timur and Chagatai Khan, defeats the Rajput Maharana Sangram Singh.

1568

THE MUGHALS ARE VICTORIOUS
For the third time in its long history, Chittor falls to a Muslim warlord. The Mughal Emperor Akbar, grandson of Babur, seizes the capital of Mewar. All its defenders are killed along with their women and children.

1576

MAHARANA PRATAP'S GREAT REBELLION
The Mewar Rajputs suffer another humiliating defeat against Akbar during the Battle of Haldighati. The year also marks the beginning of Maharana Pratap Singh's guerilla war against Akbar, a campaign that will make him an Indian national hero.



“THE RAJPUTANA RIFLES DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN FRANCE, PALESTINE, AND MESOPOTAMIA”

A watercolour by Major Alfred Crowdy Lovett c. 1908, depicting soldiers from various different Rajput regiments

1775

IN LEAGUE WITH BRITAIN

The notorious East India Company levies its first battalion of Rajput riflemen. This core unit will eventually grow into a full regiment, formally designated the Rajputana Rifles in 1921.

1829

TOD IS FIRST PUBLISHED

James Tod's *Annals And Antiquities Of Rajasthan, Volume 1* is published by Smith, Elder & Co. The whimsical and detailed account of his travels in the region deeply influences British views toward the Kshatriya aristocracy.

James Tod pictured in the 1920 edition of Annals



1857

THE SEPOYS STRIKE BACK

The Great Indian Rebellion begins. What is dismissed as a Sepoy mutiny is actually a valiant effort by dispossessed Mughals to reclaim their empire. It is a dismal failure. The Rajput princes take no part in the rising as India falls under British control the following year.



1999

INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

The Rajputana Rifles distinguish themselves in the Kargil War. Against considerable odds they triumph at the battle for Tololing.

Many participants in the Indian Rebellion were hanged



and musket. The five-month struggle of Chittorgarh, where fighters from several clans held fast, was brutal. Despite having mined a portion of its impregnable walls and inflicted horrific casualties on the defenders, the Rajputs were unbowed. It was only their ideal of honour that doomed them to suicide at the last moment. The men died fighting while their families committed Jauhar, grisly ritual suicide by self-immolation.

Akbar's victory was the third and last time Chittorgarh fell. Further disgrace followed in the Battle of Haldighati, where Mughal arms prevailed once again.

Their forces scattered, it was the renegade Sisodya Maharana Pratap Singh (9 May 1540 - 29 January 1597) who carried the red banner of Mewar.

Maharana Pratap, as he is known today, was such an ardent rebel and tactician he became a folk hero.

Maharana Pratap's struggle continued after his death until Akbar's son Jahangir (30 August

1569 - 7 November 1627) grew weary of fighting the Rajputs. Sparing the sword, he signed a treaty with Maharana Pratap's son and from then on lavished gifts upon the Sisodyas. The bewildering sums of these bribes are described with detail in Jahangir's memoirs.

In a rare gesture of magnanimity, Jahangir even returned the regal Chittorgarh fortress to its former owners. But could the Rajputs survive the oppression of European colonialism?

They did, and it led to a new age of prosperity for these landed Kshatriyas. Once again, it is Tod's *Annals* that explains why the Rajputs, having likewise suffered from the decline of the Mughals, sought help from the British Empire.

As early as 1775, in fact, a battalion of Rajput riflemen were levied by the East India Company, whose grip on the subcontinent was now uncontested after besting the French during the Seven Year's War. By 1817 this core unit became the Rajputana Rifles, the foremost senior regiment in the Indian armed forces.

From one empire to another

It wasn't until the 19th Century when Rajputana's leading clans sought to federate with British India. A deal was brokered by the Maharanas and Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, a special aid to the acting British Governor-General in Delhi.

The reason was entirely practical, since by 1818 Rajputana had been economically ruined by the collapse of Mughal power, repeated invasions from Persia, as well as the resurgent Marathas who wished to carve out their own piece of empire.



Right and below: A traditional Khanda Indian sword and a shield cut from steel

Left: Maharana Pratap Singh depicted here in traditional Rajput warrior dress, complete with two swords

JAMES TOD AND INDIA'S WARRIOR 'RACES'

LIKE THOSE WHO WOULD FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS, LT COL JAMES TOD CONVINCED HIS SUPERIORS OF THE VALUE IN LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND HELPED CAST A UTILITARIAN AND COLONIAL EYE OVER INDIAN CLANS

THE RAJPUTS REDEFINED BY BRITISH COLONIALISM

Joining the Bengal Army at the age of 19, Tod fought in the third Anglo-Maratha War. It was his keen insight and willingness to learn local customs that secured his role as the East India Company's eyes and ears in Rajasthan. With *Annals And Antiquities Of Rajasthan*, Tod fashioned how the English-speaking world viewed the Rajputs, whose pattern of life was seen as akin to European knights. It goes without saying this was typical of the colonial mind set at the time.

It's little wonder, then, that the Rajput identity as a 'warrior race' loomed large in the Anglo-Saxon mind. It helped that the Rajputs were aristocratic and had an unquestionable military record. In summation, the British had won over a suitable officer class. But there were other nations deemed fit to serve Her Majesty as well.

“IT HELPED THAT THE RAJPUTS WERE ARISTOCRATIC AND HAD AN UNQUESTIONABLE MILITARY RECORD. THE BRITISH HAD WON OVER A SUITABLE OFFICER CLASS”



GURKHAS

The nimble hillmen of Nepal have always been British favourites. Raised as hunters and toughened by their natural environment, the Gurkhas adapted to any terrain and never complained. Another trait that endeared them to their British officers was a jovial attitude towards combat. The Gurkha was not a pathological killer, but could exact a terrible toll on their enemy. Fond of sport and humour, tireless and determined, the Gurkhas were the likeliest group to charge straight into hell with nary a complaint. Gurkhas were so typically excellent soldiers, British officers in India never failed to praise them.

5th Royal Gurkha Rifles somewhere in the north-west Frontier, 1923



The Nusseree Battalion later known as the 1st Gurkha Rifles circa 1857



SIKHS

Long persecuted by the Mughals and at first hostile to the British, the non-sectarian Sikhs became the pride of the Indian Army – for good reason. Characterised as true gentlemen and possessing total discipline, the Sikh way of life fit the martial mold like a sword to its scabbard. To further embellish their reputation, the Sikhs widely adopted the Rajput surname 'Singh' as proof of their leonine qualities. Writing in World War I, the author Edmund Candler placed the Sikhs atop the martial races and declared, "War is a necessary stimulus to Sikhism." Most importantly, Sikhs never surrendered.

Sikh troops training with Bren guns and a two-inch mortar in 1941



A Sikh soldier manning an anti-aircraft Bren gun in 1941



PATHANS

British officers were divided on the Pathans, also called the Pashtun. Seen as quarrelsome and individualistic highlanders, the Muslim Pathans were prone to feud among themselves when not bedevilling foreign tribes. Their strict adherence to the code of Pashtunwali and occasional fanaticism was problematic too. It was the Pathans, after all, who made three Anglo-Afghan Wars disasters for the British. But the Pathans were brave, fearless, and harboured a genuine love for combat. In other words, they made perfect infantrymen.

Pashtun riflemen pictured during the Second Anglo-Afghan War in 1866



Once the British controlled the whole of India, the Rajputs proved willing partners in governing the small kingdoms throughout this vast colonial possession. Their usefulness quadrupled as soldiers and allies, while the habits of the Rajput nobility also mixed well with their British counterparts.

The attraction, by any account, was mutual – this sentiment is found in the aforementioned *The Martial Races Of India* by MacMunn. MacMunn believed the Rajputs were the Aryans of Central Asia and belonged to the same racial stock as modern Europeans. “They are the descendants of the warriors who carried forward the Aryan exodus and influx,” MacMunn concludes, before distinguishing the Rajputs from the Jats, the Tartars, and Mongols.

MacMunn also found the Rajputs to be a fair race, admiring their features that had the “Aryan beauty and physiognomy of the Greek.” In MacMunn’s view, at least, these favoured Kshatriya were white men too.

Into the world wars and beyond

Despite the understated contempt among the British for Hindus in general, the Indian Army was a force to be reckoned with. In World War I alone, 1.3 million Indians fought in every theatre and the Rajputana Rifles distinguished themselves in France, Palestine, and Mesopotamia (now Iraq).

Come World War II, it was in East Africa where the Rajputana Rifles rose to the occasion despite the brutality of modern warfare. During

the struggle for the commanding heights of Keren, in Eritrea, which was controlled by the Italians, a company from the 4th Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles lost its officer in a night-time assault.

Undaunted, the second-in-command Subedar Richpal Ram (20 August 1899 - 12 February 1941) led the company with “great dash and gallantry” in an uphill battle. Having reached their objective, they beat “several counterattacks” until they became low on ammunition and were forced to withdraw back to their lines.

The following day, mortally injured on the latest attempt to recapture lost ground, Richpal Ram fought and led his men until he died of his wounds. His actions won him the Victoria Cross and his name is inscribed on the Keren Cremation Memorial.

Come independence and bloody partition, the Rajputana Rifles fought every major war with Muslim Pakistan and were even deployed on counter-insurgency operations in Sri Lanka and Jammu-Kashmir.

The warrior kings of Akbar’s reign and James Tod’s book are long gone. Their weapons remain unused, their martial valour unneeded, as the noble Rajputs gently surrendered to the modern age. Nonetheless, In the first year of World War I, British General O’Moore Creagh summed up their character with exquisite praise: “They are, and ever have been, honourable, brave, and true.” His words fit the Rajputs to a tee.

THE KARGIL WAR

THE RAJPUTANA RIFLES HAVE FOUGHT IN EVERY MODERN INDIAN CONFLICT, BUT IT WAS IN THE SUMMER OF 1999 THAT THEIR METTLE WAS TESTED

In early May, Mujahideen, along with units of the Pakistan Army’s elite Northern Light Infantry, occupied the five Kargil peaks in Jammu-Kashmir.

This was disastrous for the Indian garrison defending the Line of Control (LoC), the military frontier between Indian- and Pakistan-held portions of Kashmir. Not only did Pakistan possess the higher ground, they could direct artillery strikes on the vulnerable National Highway 1A.

The five peaks had to be retaken. Battalions from four different regiments were sent to capture the first strategic hilltop, Tololing, but were thwarted.

Only the 2 Rajputana Rifles managed to ascend despite scant cover, sub-zero temperatures, and withering fire from the Pakistanis. Casualties were heavy, but 2 Rajputana seized the objective on 13 June 1999. This turned the tide for India and checked Pakistan’s designs along the LoC.



The Kargil War Memorial as it appears today



An Indian infantry section of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Rajput Regiment, Burma, 1943

“THEY ARE, AND EVER HAVE BEEN, HONOURABLE, BRAVE, AND TRUE”

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The aftermath of a Boko Haram bomb attack outside St. Theresa Catholic Church in Madella, Nigeria





BRIEFING

Boko Haram: state of terror

How centuries of colonial rule and religious turmoil have led to this ruthless terrorist group tearing Nigeria apart from within

WORDS JACK GRIFFITHS

It was barely a few weeks into 2015 when Boko Haram undertook its most vicious attacks to date. The fundamentalist Islamic militant group has been actively terrorising the Borno region of Nigeria since 2009, but these assaults were something new – something bigger. The first attack came on 3 January when the fishing town of Baga, which had previously been attacked in 2013, was set upon by a legion of militant gunmen. 2,000 innocent civilians are believed to have been killed, with over 3,500 homes and businesses being destroyed. The Boko Haram occupation of Baga lasted for around five days, and the group also razed surrounding settlements before they were finally driven out by the Nigerian military.

While Europe is still reeling after the Charlie Hebdo attack in Paris, Nigeria is struggling in the wake of these extremist attacks that are ever increasing in their intensity. Many are of the opinion that the Borno region in north-east Nigeria is now becoming a de-facto state under the rule of Boko Haram.

It's estimated that the group controls an area the size of Belgium, with a population of 1.7 million people. The resemblance to other Islamic fundamentalist groups such as ISIS and Al-Shabaab could not be more striking. But why is this extremist group growing by the day? The answer lies not only in the current state of Nigeria, but also the difficult history of this relatively young country. Nigeria achieved independence from British rule as recently as 1960, and since then the governments in power have been largely unsuccessful in quelling the unrest in a country that plays host to 350 different ethnic groups and 250 languages. These divisions mean the country only became a democratic state in 1999 after a series of military governments. Ultimately, the whole

melting pot has contributed to a strong anti-establishment feeling within the country, and one of these outlets is Boko Haram.

The attack on Borno wasn't the end of the recent assaults, as neighbouring Cameroon also felt the full brunt of the organisation's power on 12 January. This time, the military base in Kolofata was the target. The Cameroonian army managed to step in, and around 300 of Boko Haram's fighters were killed, but the audacity to attack a military compound shows just how much the group is gathering strength. Moreover, recent news reports indicate that attacks on the Nigerian city of Maiduguri have just begun. Overall, at least 13,000 lives have been lost and 1.5 million civilians displaced by the organisation



KEY EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF BOKO HARAM:

1804

The Sokoto Caliphate is formed and begins ruling large areas of Nigeria, Cameroon and Niger, with over 30 Emirates under its control.

1817

The first sultan of Sokoto, Usman dan Fodio, dies. Despite this and an attempted coup d'état, the caliphate continues to grow.

1820

The Kingdom of Oyo splits from the caliphate and becomes a regular threat to the caliph's borders.

1903

The Sokoto Caliphate goes into decline as British and European imperial powers begin the 'Scramble for Africa'.

since 2009. It is hoped that the Nigerian elections on 14 February can minimise the devastation Boko Haram is currently exerting over the country and can create a plan to combat the fundamentalist threat.

**1804-1903:
The Sokoto Caliphate**

Nigeria is a region of rich natural resources, and its location has made it appeal to a series of empires and dynastic states throughout history. The most powerful of these kingdoms were the Kanem-Bornu Empire and Songhai Empire that surrounded the land of the Hausa States, who ruled the central area of Nigeria. By the turn of the 19th Century, however, a new wave of influence was rising. Formed by Muslim scholars as a response to corruption and tyranny, the Sokoto Caliphate was more of a community rather than an empire, but it had a profound impact on the people of Nigeria.

The caliphate began as a series of small-scale uprisings, but grew into a fully fledged movement by 1804. Its first leader was the

Sultan of Sokoto, Usman dan Fodio, who installed Sharia law, and united an area that was reeling from past exploitation by the slave trade. Even after Fodio died in 1817, the caliphate grew to become West Africa's most powerful state since the fall of the Songhai Empire in 1591. The Islamic kingdom now included areas of Niger, Cameroon and Benin, as well as Nigeria. By the middle of the century, 30 emirates made up the caliphate, and the capital Sokoto was now a large and populous city. There were a few minor revolts and divisions during the caliphate, but the rule of the Sultan went largely unchallenged throughout the century. The most prominent resistance was a planned coup d'état from the Oyo cavalry in 1817, shortly after the death of Fodio. The attempt was crushed, but the kingdom of Oyo split from the caliphate in 1820 and continued to threaten its borders.

As well as becoming the biggest 'empire' in Africa, the Sokoto Caliphate was also the inspiration for holy wars in other parts of the continent. Islamic states were founded in

Senegal, Mali and Chad, to name but a few. Some experts have described the Sokoto Caliphate as a type of African Islamic revolution not too dissimilar to the French and Russian Revolutions in the way that an aging hierarchy was disposed of and a new order established. Boko Haram sees itself as the modern-day equivalent, and seems determined to have a similar impact in the 21st Century.

As the 19th Century wore on, European powers began to cast their eyes on Africa. Missionaries spread through the continent as many were converted from Islam to Christianity. Sokoto wasn't immune to these external influences, and by 1903 pressure from the Western powers put the caliphate into decline. It had lasted for almost 100 years before the 'Scramble for Africa' put the area into British hands. The organisation at the centre of the British colonisation was the Royal Niger Company. In the same ilk as the famous East India Company, the firm managed territorial disputes with France and Germany, and successfully controlled the Niger River



Grainy footage of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau



Hostages released from the custody of Boko Haram

1960
Nigeria achieves independence from British rule on 1 October after a huge nationalist movement.

6 July 1697
The Nigerian Civil War breaks out after constant instability and unrest in the country since independence. It is also known as the 'Biafran War'.

15 January 1970
The Civil War ends with the Biafra under Nigerian rule again. The country is reunified after two-and-a-half years of war.

1980
Throughout the decade, riots spread throughout the country. The uprising is led by Mohammed Marwa, or 'Maitatsine', who preaches the return of Islamic rule.

1999
Nigeria becomes a democratic state after 39 years of military rule and almost constant unrest.

2002
Boko Haram is born under the leadership of Muslim cleric Mohammed Yusuf. It is centered in the state of Borno.

December 2003
The first known attack by Boko Haram includes roughly 200 militants, who target multiple police stations.

July 2009
Mohammed Yusuf is captured and dies in custody after an uprising is quashed by a military task force.

delta, as well as the trade routes to Sudan. Britain initially felt that conquest into Western Africa was too expensive a venture, but it was too dedicated in preventing the extension of German and French influence to retreat. With British control and administration complete, unification of the new 'Nigeria' was the next logical step.

1903-99: From colony to independence

A colony is generally a lot easier to manage and rule if it's only one political entity. The British made exactly this, and merged the northern and southern sections of the region together to form 'Nigeria'. The northern and southern regions were combined as the country assumed the political boundaries we see today. The move was destined for controversy, as the north was mainly Muslim and the former centre of the caliphate, while the south was primarily Christian. Even today, Boko Haram's sphere of influence is centered in the north-eastern parts of the country. From here on out, the British



A group of militants has been seen in a widespread upheaval in Nigeria

THE SITUATION IN WESTERN AFRICA

16
villages
attacked

5,000
people
killed

500
women & girls
abducted

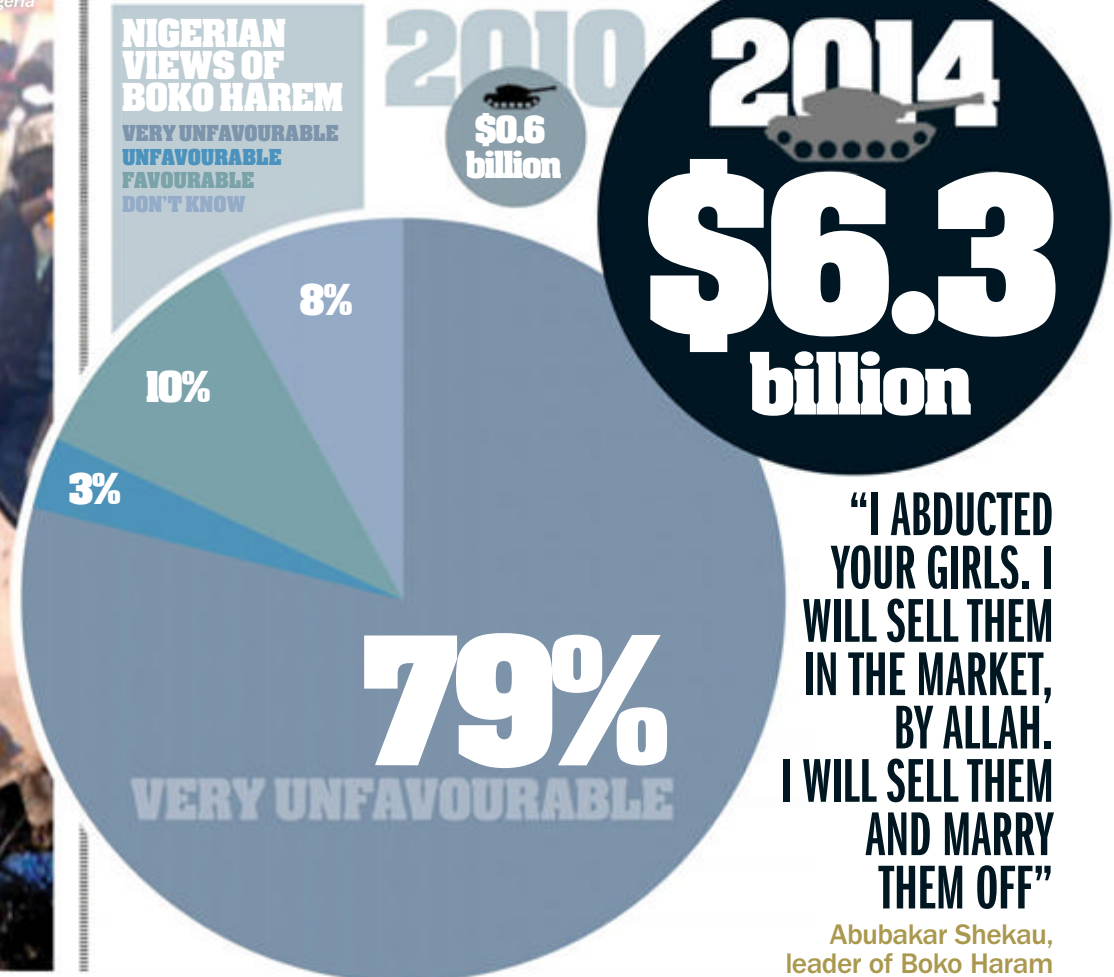


“PEOPLE WHO HID IN THEIR HOMES WERE BURNED ALIVE”

Musa Bukar, the chairman of the local Baga government

NIGERIAN DEFENCE SPENDING

NIGERIAN VIEWS OF BOKO HARAM
VERY UNFAVOURABLE
UNFAVOURABLE
FAVOURABLE
DON'T KNOW



“I ABDUCTED YOUR GIRLS. I WILL SELL THEM IN THE MARKET, BY ALLAH. I WILL SELL THEM AND MARRY THEM OFF”

Abubakar Shekau, leader of Boko Haram

July 2010
Boko Haram releases a video statement in which Yusuf's deputy, Abubakar Shekau, claims to be the leader of the group.

7 September 2010
50 Boko Haram militants attack a prison, killing five people and releasing more than 700 inmates.

March 2011
Construction worker Chris McManus and Franco Laminara are kidnapped and shot dead by Boko Haram.

7 July 2011
Boko Haram warns Muslims to avoid Christians, public servants, public buildings, and anything related to politics.

January 2012
A splinter group called Ansaru is formed, and announces Abu Usmatul Al-Ansari as its leader.



19 April 2013
Boko Haram battles with forces from Niger, Nigeria and Chad in the city of Baga in Borno State, leaving nearly 200 people dead.

made sweeping changes to the region. Some aspects of Sharia law were kept in place, but the attempt to water down the parts of society the colonials felt were too 'extreme' caused a rift. The people of the caliphate saw the interference as an attempt by Christians to displace Muslim ideology for their own. This can be seen as the first time that Western values began to rile a section of the Muslim population in the region. It was by no means the hatred to the West that Boko Haram currently maintains, but the seeds for the current situation were sown here.

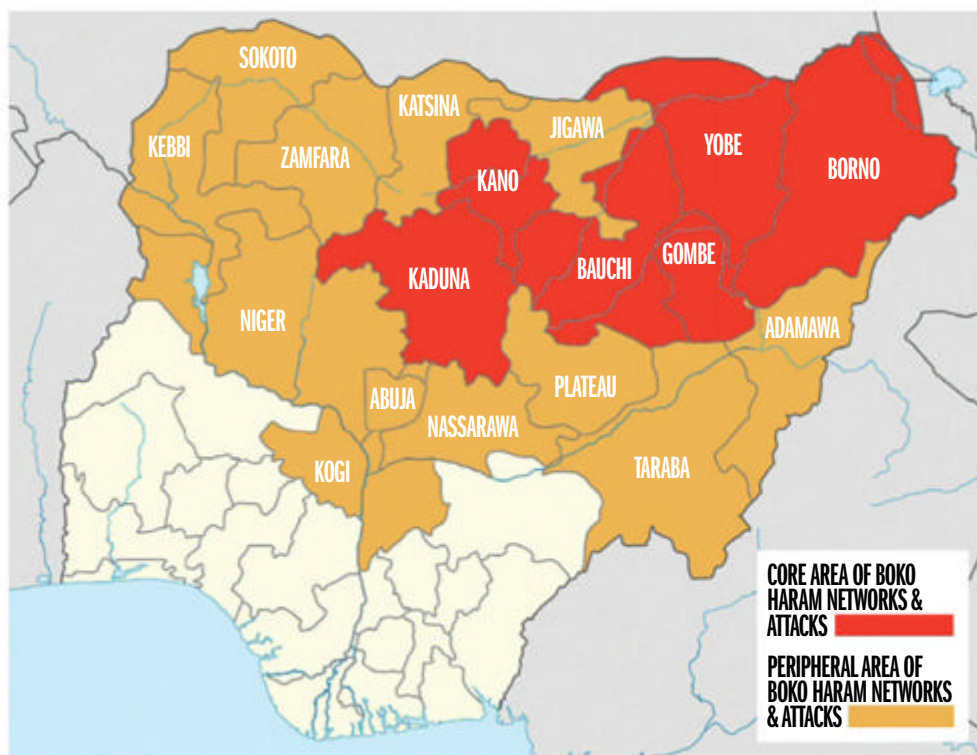
Political and cultural changes were introduced throughout the century, but the most significant of all these was in 1960, when the decision was taken for Nigerian independence. Prior to the Nigerian Independence Day on 1 October, a huge nationalist movement was rising. Demanding improvements in education and an increased role in political affairs, the Nigerian population was becoming increasingly disillusioned with the British rule that didn't represent the thoughts and needs of the nation in any shape or form. After independence, politics had a tricky birth in Nigeria. Following six years of disagreements and rioting, the decision was taken for the nation to go under military rule. However, the regional divisions still proved too great, and the region of Biafra declared itself an independent republic. A bloody two-and-a-half-year civil war followed, during which many countries across the globe waded into the conflict that was dominated by accusations of ethnic genocide. It was in this fragmented and war-torn country that Boko Haram would emerge.

Mohammed Marwa was a Muslim preacher who raged constantly about how the influx of Western culture was damaging Nigeria. His extreme orations led him to become labelled as 'Maitatsine', meaning 'the one who damns'. He would forever be associated with this name. Though initially he wasn't even a speck on the political map, soon the government began to take note. However, the political leaders couldn't have expected the backlash that followed. By the start of the Eighties, riots

“The Maitatsine effect suggested that Islamic fundamentalism was beginning to grasp a foothold on the nation”

WHERE BOKO HARAM OPERATES

Since its formation in 2002, Boko Haram has increased its influence throughout north-eastern Nigeria and surrounding areas. The attacks have escalated since the group became more militant in 2009 under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau, and both Niger and Cameroon have come under threat. Boko Haram's area of influence has spread so far that many see the Borno area as a de-facto state under the rule of the Islamic fundamentalist group. The Nigerian capital of Abuja is currently just outside the Boko Haram network, so if the government is to upscale its resistance, it may well be in the very near future.



gripped the nation, and in the demonstrations, Maitatsine and up to 10,000 of his followers were killed. Since independence was first declared, Nigeria had become an almost constant battleground for Christians and Muslims fighting over resources, power and what they believed in. The Maitatsine effect suggested that Islamic fundamentalism was beginning to grasp a foothold on the nation, but it would have to wait until 1999 for its next great victory.

1999-2011: The rise of extremism

From 1960 all the way through to 1999, Nigerian politics lurched from one crisis to another. It was only by the turn of the millennium that democracy returned with the drawing up of a new constitution and the beginning of the Fourth Republic. Nigeria turned a corner, but the wealth of the country began to localise itself on the western coast and especially within the populous city of Lagos. The north-eastern part of the nation, isolated and marginalised, would become an ideal breeding ground for Islamic fundamentalism.

Boko Haram was founded in 2002 in the Borno Area of north-eastern Nigeria. Its founder was Mohammed Yusuf, a man dedicated to returning Sharia law to the country, especially the Christian areas. From the outset, the small band of followers, whose name means 'Western education is forbidden', were determined to reverse Nigeria's democratic transition and end what they believed to be a nationalist and Westernised outlook of the nation. They are derived from the Salafist strand of Sunni Muslims, and their ultimate aim is to re-establish an Islamic state in Nigeria. Its key membership group consists of impoverished students and professionals, and the group's official name is 'Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad', meaning 'People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad'.

The first major instance of an armed uprising from the 'Nigerian Taliban' was in 2003 when the group established a settlement on the border of Niger and called it 'Afghanistan'. After further attacks on local officials, the Nigerian security forces retaliated with brute

15 May 2013

Nigeria's Ministry of Defence announces that military offensives in the areas of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe against the group.



4 June 2013

President Goodluck Jonathan approves the outlawing of Boko Haram and splinter group Ansaru as terrorist organisations.

17 September 2013

Boko Haram gunmen dress in military uniforms and stage a fake checkpoint in Borno, executing travellers and burning vehicles.

13 November 2013

Boko Haram and Ansaru are added to the US State Department's list of terrorist organisations.

14 April 2014

Militants kidnap approximately 276 teenage girls from a boarding school in Chibok, Borno.



force and drove Yusuf and his men away. What followed was a five-year truce. By 2009, the anti-Western group began to feature for the first time on the global terrorism radar, but it all started in quite an unusual way. The Boko Haram uprising began in July after some members refused to obey a motorbike helmet law. This resulted in an armed police response, which in turn caused the fundamentalist group to retaliate with bombings on the city of Maiduguri and the capital city Abuja, as well as a prison break in Bauchi. Despite the violence, the Nigerian government got their man, and Yusuf was executed without trial. Even though the extremist group had now lost their leader, this event was the trigger point to the escalated violence we see today.

To reclaim a Nigerian Islamic caliphate, Boko Haram, under the new leadership of Abubakar Shekau, launched relentless attacks in the heartland of Nigeria. These acts of violence ranged from bank robberies aimed at financing the group to attacking military bases in order to gain regional control. The violence was used as a vehicle to instil fear and hatred, with the random execution of innocent motorists and the May 2011 kidnapping of Chris McManus and Franco Lamolinara being examples of this. Shekau and his followers have become so strong that they even offered the Nigerian Government amnesty if they surrendered to the fundamentalist group. With each passing year, Boko Haram grew stronger while the Nigerian Government seemingly went the opposite way. By 2011, the threat of the group to overwhelm the country was very real.

2011-2014: 21st Century caliphate

Boko Haram's reach has become so widespread in Nigeria that a number of offshoot groups have been established in recent years. The most prominent of these factions is Ansaru, who were first recognised in January 2012. The name can be translated as 'Vanguards for the Protection of Muslims in Black Africa', and the organisation is now listed along with Boko Haram as a terrorist organisation. Within a year of its creation, the group had attacked compounds and taken travellers hostage as it sought to imitate the work of Abubakar Shekau. Boko Haram, meanwhile, was readying itself for the most bloodshed yet, the April 2013 Baga Massacre. One of the deadliest episodes in the group's short history, the town of Baga was razed and up to 2,000 were killed in the battle as the Nigerian military exchanged gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades with the militants. It is believed that 40 per cent of the town was destroyed in the attack. No one could have predicted that it would happen again with even more ferocity less than two years later.



Boko Haram's attacks have been swift and brutal

“This is just the beginning of the killings. What you’ve just witnessed is a tip of the iceberg. More deaths are coming”

Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau after the 2015 Baga attacks

Various Muslim leaders around the world have frequently stated that Boko Haram in no way represents the true teachings of Islam, and are in fact 'anti-Islam'. Certainly, most of the group's bombing raids kill an almost equal share of Muslims and Christians. Economically, Nigeria is one of the richest countries in Africa, and is in the top 20 wealthiest nations on Earth due to its rich oil reserves. This wealth is not distributed remotely evenly, however, with 75 per cent of the population considered poor, and a huge amount surviving without electricity. It's possible the growing membership of Boko Haram could also be motivated by anger towards the Nigerian Government for withholding the people's wealth.

Whatever the motivation is, the attacks are as frequent as ever. The Chibok kidnappings of April 2014 saw over 300 girls taken from their classroom by gunmen. Out of all their atrocities, this event has attracted the most attention from the Western media, as demonstrated in the viral Twitter hashtag #BringBackOurGirls.

Experts from both the US and UK travelled to Nigeria to assist the government in the rescue operation, which was widely believed to have been poorly handled. As **History Of War** goes to press, the majority of the schoolchildren are still being held hostage, with only a handful managing to escape.

2015 dawned with yet more insurgent violence. Previously, Boko Haram was nowhere near the likes of ISIS in global exposure, and was simply not appealing for global jihadists to join. The Western military involvement in the Middle East is what ISIS feeds on, but Boko Haram does not have this to fight against. In recent years, the Nigerian government has taken a much more central role in its attempt to crush the fundamentalist threat. Subsequently, the faction has seen its membership base swell, resulting in an increase in operations and coverage and an emergence of propaganda videos not unlike ISIS's output. If recent events are anything to go by, the storm is only just beginning.

13 May 2014
Hundreds of Boko Haram militants storm three villages in the state of Borno. Villagers and the military resist, killing more than 200 Boko Haram fighters.



21 May 2014
The White House announces that the United States has sent troops to Chad to help search for the kidnapped schoolgirls.

18-22 June 2014
Boko Haram militants hold the village of Kummabza in Borno state, north-eastern Nigeria, hostage for four days.

17 July 2014
The town of Damboa is attacked and raided. 66 residents are killed and more than 15,000 flee.

3 January 2015
Hundreds of Boko Haram gunmen seize the town of Baga, and as many as 2,000 people are killed.

10 January 2015
Suicide bombs strapped to girls detonate in a market in Potiskum. Three are believed to have died, with more wounded.

12 January 2015
Boko Haram militants make a daring attack on a Cameroonian army base as their operations and attacks become more widespread.

HMS ALLIANCE

Take a tour of the mechanics, weapons and operating systems of Britain's last surviving Second World War submarine

A veteran submarine hunter from the Cold War, HMS Alliance is a diesel-electric submarine and the tenth constructed from the Amphion class of the Royal Navy. The 16 in its class were ordered to be constructed in 1943 when Imperial Japan was becoming a danger to the Allies in the Pacific theatre of war. However, by V-J Day none of the submarines had been commissioned in time to see war and were instead thrust into the Cold War.

Alliance was designed for long-distance patrolling at a range of around 16,100 kilometres (10,000 miles) with up to 30 days underwater. The submarine used a technique learnt from the Germans called 'snorkelling' or 'snorting', which allowed the vessel to travel long distances with a steady supply of fresh air. Alliance went under a huge overhaul in 1958 to get it up to speed with the tough seas of the Cold War. With the new additions it became a key part of the Royal Navy despite running

aground in 1968 and a fire in 1971 that killed one and injured 14.

The submarine slipped into retirement in 1973 as the Oberon and Porpoise class of submarine took over. It was then used as training boat until 1981 when it became a memorial to the 4,334 submariners who lost their lives in both World Wars and the 739 who have been killed in peacetime disasters. It is now the centrepiece of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Gosport, Hampshire.



Left HMS Alliance clocked up thousands of miles as it monitored submarines from the Red Fleet during the Cold War



HMS ALLIANCE

TYPE A-class Fighting vessel

COMMISSIONED 14 May 1947

ORIGIN UK

LENGTH 85m (281ft)

ENGINE Twin diesel-electric

CREW 68 (five officers, 63 ratings)

TOP SPEED 18.5 knots (surfaced) 8 knots (submerged)

PRIMARY WEAPON 12 Mark VIII Torpex torpedoes

SECONDARY WEAPONS 4in gun, 20mm AA gun,
3 .303 machine guns, 26 mines

“ALLIANCE WAS DESIGNED FOR LONG-DISTANCE PATROLLING AT A RANGE OF AROUND 16,100 KILOMETRES (10,000 MILES) WITH UP TO 30 DAYS UNDERWATER”



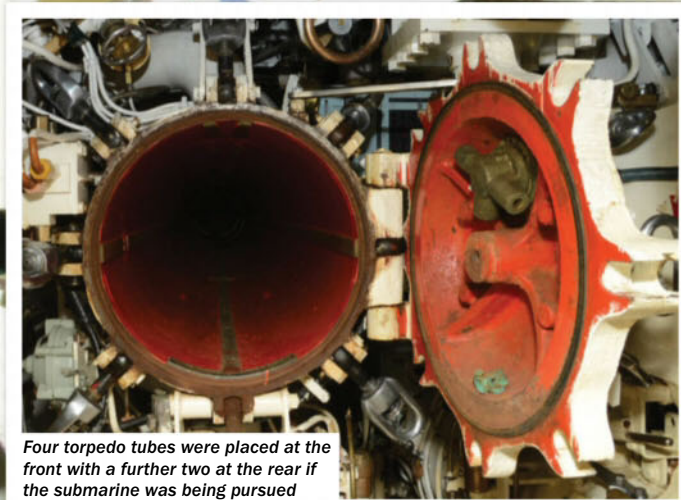
Left With its all-welded hull, Alliance made submarines stronger and quicker off the production line

Below Alliance as it looks today. The museum was given £7 million in 2013 to stop it rusting away

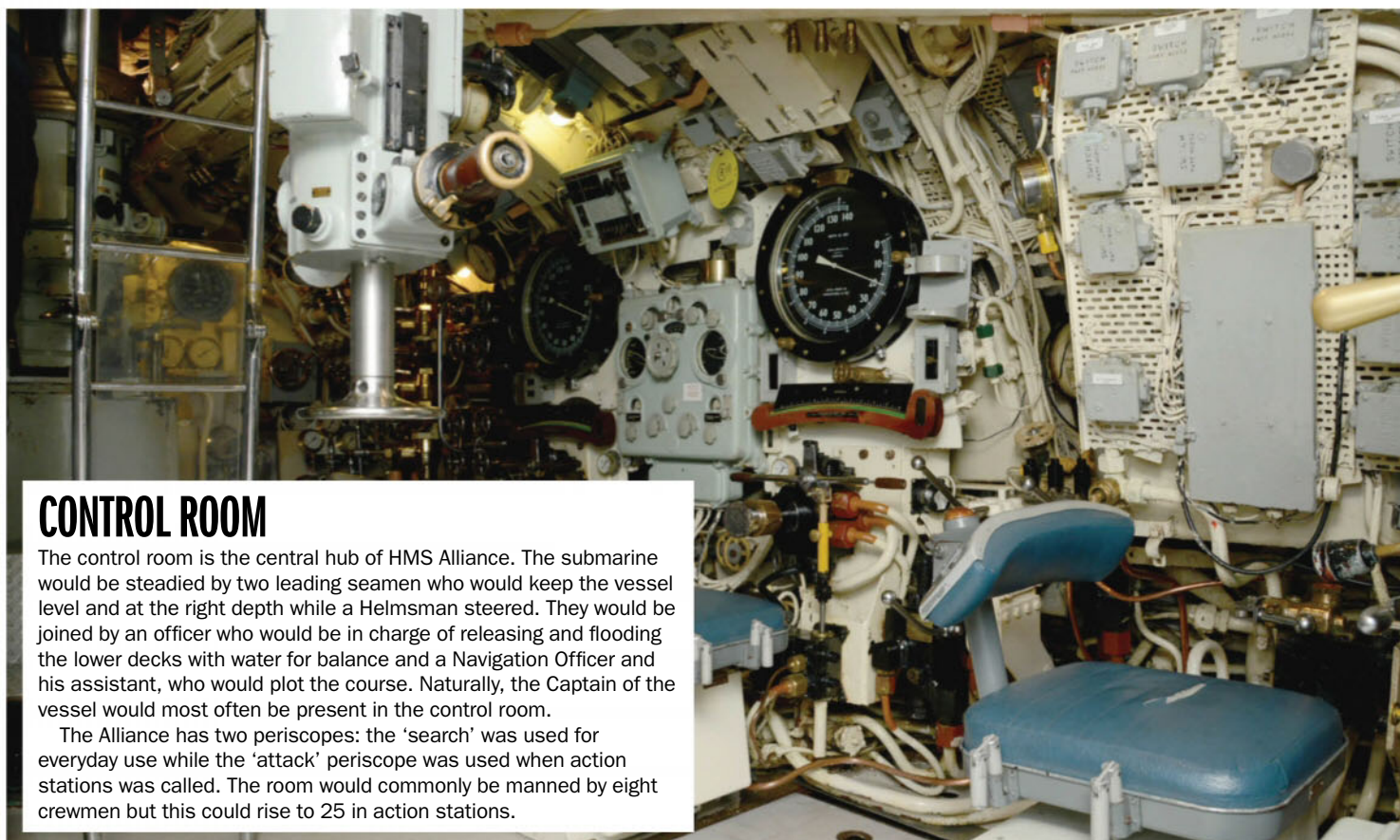
TORPEDOES

The weapon systems of Alliance were vital, despite the fact that the Cold War never reached open hostilities. The vessel could carry up to 12 torpedoes at a time, which would be fired in a triple salvo at enemy submarines and ships.

The weapons of choice for the Alliance were two-ton Mark VIII torpedoes with a 730lb explosive torpex head. These would be fired just below the surface at the side of a ship for maximum damage. The Mark VIII would later be phased out by the Tigerfish Torpedo, which boasted a magnetic proximity fuse that would explode when in the locality of the target.



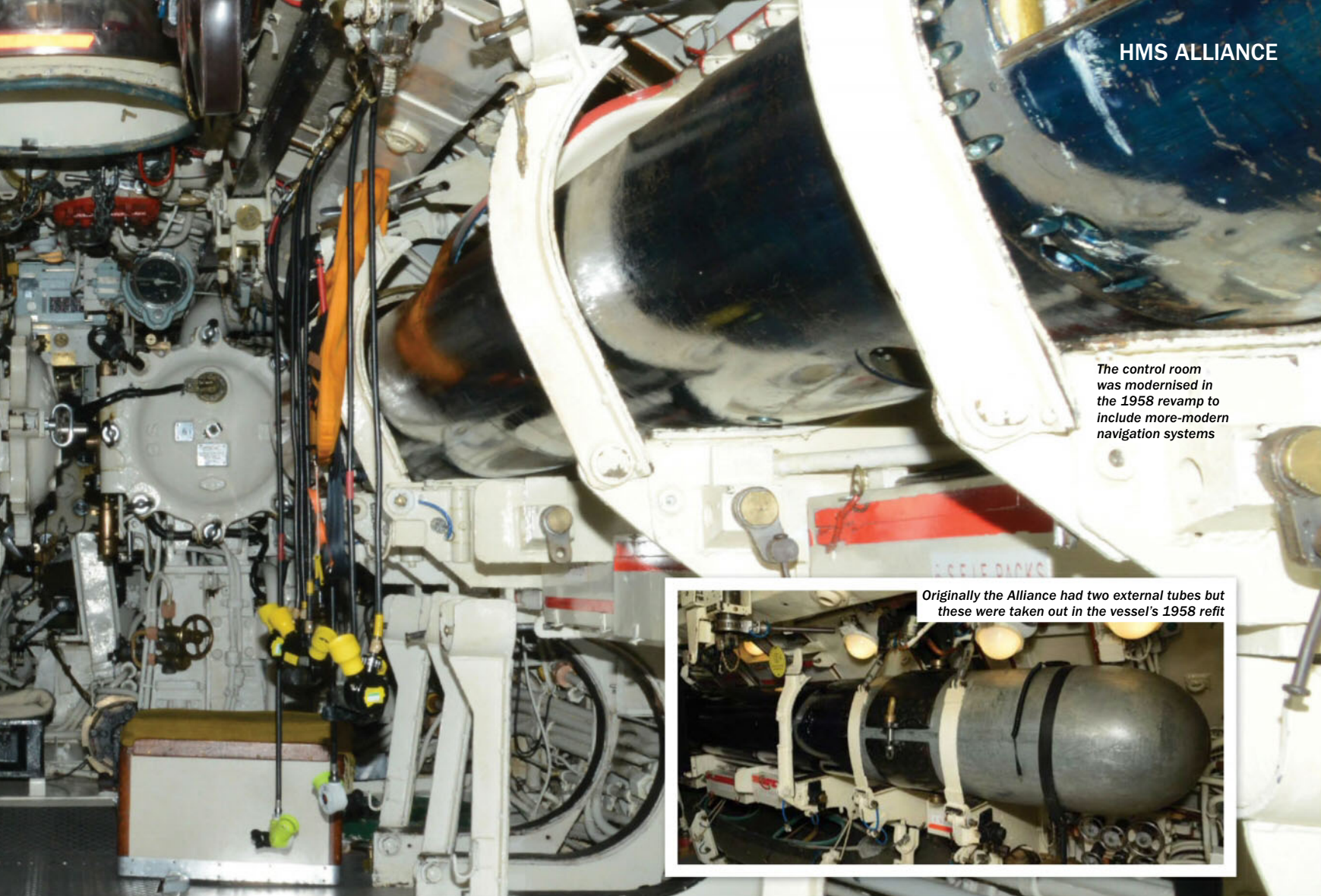
Four torpedo tubes were placed at the front with a further two at the rear if the submarine was being pursued



CONTROL ROOM

The control room is the central hub of HMS Alliance. The submarine would be steadied by two leading seamen who would keep the vessel level and at the right depth while a Helmsman steered. They would be joined by an officer who would be in charge of releasing and flooding the lower decks with water for balance and a Navigation Officer and his assistant, who would plot the course. Naturally, the Captain of the vessel would most often be present in the control room.

The Alliance has two periscopes: the 'search' was used for everyday use while the 'attack' periscope was used when action stations was called. The room would commonly be manned by eight crewmen but this could rise to 25 in action stations.



The control room was modernised in the 1958 revamp to include more-modern navigation systems



Originally the Alliance had two external tubes but these were taken out in the vessel's 1958 refit

“THE WEAPONS OF CHOICE FOR THE ALLIANCE WERE TWO-TON MARK VIII TORPEDOES WITH A 730LB EXPLOSIVE”



PROPELLERS

Thanks to its diesel-electric system, the HMS Alliance was capable of 18.5 knots on the surface and eight knots when submerged. Sluggish when compared with the ships of the era, this was equal to the majority of submarines at least until the nuclear era led by the launch of USS Nautilus.

Although imposing, the propellers were remarkably quiet and the Alliance was an extremely discreet ship, which helped it to no end when tracking Soviet subs across the oceans. The boat's direction was controlled from the stern by fore planes, which adjusted depth, and after planes that controlled the angle of the submarine.

**THE OTHER AMPHION-CLASS SUBS
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALLIANCE'S SISTER SUBMARINES?**

HMS ALDERNEY (P416)

Like the Alliance, Alderney went under an expensive refit in 1958 to get it up to scratch. The submarine was part of various Royal Navy submarine squadrons and was primarily used in training exercises with the Royal Canadian Navy and Air Force. It was decommissioned in 1966 and eventually scrapped in 1970.



HMS AFFRAY

The last Royal Navy submarine lost at sea, the HMS Affray was involved in a training exercise that went horribly wrong in April 1951. The submarine sank during the operation in the English Channel after supposed system defects or possible battery explosion. All 75 of the crew perished in the disaster.



HMS ARTFUL

The Artful was put 'on loan' to the Royal Canadian Navy as a training submarine in 1951 but returned to the reserve and the 5th Submarine Squadron in 1954. From then on it participated in Home Fleet Squadron Tours until its scrapping in 1972.



ENGINE ROOM

The engine room was by far and away the noisiest, hottest and dirtiest place on the submarine. The twin diesel-electric engines dominated the room, which was hot and humid at nearly all times. Seasickness was common in this room and the pointed stern of the submarine made the area move in a figure of eight when advancing through the sea.

The lives of the engineers on board weren't safe either – as space is lacking on a submarine, open valves and electrical circuits were everywhere. Some of these open blades could have up to 440 volts of direct current running through them. With the advent of nuclear subs, the safety aspects of their engine rooms were forced into a priority, for obvious reasons.



The engine room shook so much, many submariners strapped buckets to themselves for when seasickness struck!

THE 1958 REFIT

The HMS Alliance was built for the war in the Pacific and Far-East operations, so when the Second World War ended and the Cold War escalated, some of its features became obsolete. The 20mm anti-aircraft gun was deemed surplus to requirement, as rival submarines became the enemy rather than ships and aircraft. The 1958 refit concentrated on making the Alliance much more streamlined so it was even quieter than it had been and therefore more difficult for sonar to detect. As nuclear submarines began to take over, HMS Alliance didn't find itself becoming obsolete, instead it occupied a much more niche role of obtaining information and undertaking reconnaissance missions.



The original vessel had a 20mm anti-aircraft gun, but it was phased out after the refit as technology advanced

Left: The conning tower was replaced after the 1958 refit as the Alliance's role changed to a sub-hunter



“THE TWIN DIESEL-ELECTRIC ENGINES DOMINATED THE ROOM, WHICH WAS HOT AND HUMID AT NEARLY ALL TIMES”

As part of the recent restoration project, the stern has been reconstructed following corrosion damage



ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM



The Royal Navy Submarine Museum has been at its current location and open to the public since 1978. HMS Alliance was donated to the museum in the same year as its principal exhibit. The museum attracts 50,000 visitors a year and doubles up as a memorial to all British submariners who have given their lives in service. Its continuing mission is to 'tell the story of the Royal Navy Submarine Service'. Visit www.submarine-museum.co.uk for opening hours and admission information.

LIFE ABOARD A SUBMARINE

JJ MOLLOY SERVED AS A WEAPONS ENGINEER ON HMS WALRUS, HMS OPPORTUNE AND HMS SEALION DURING THE COLD WAR.

Why did you choose to become a submariner?

I joined the navy thinking I would go onto aircraft carriers and have a good life sunning myself in warm climates. I finished my training but I was drafted onto submarines instead.

What's it like to be out at sea and under the waves on often long operations?

It's a very peaceful existence. The submarines are designed to be quiet and the crew is quiet. You get up do your job and go back to bed. It's all about routine. You don't really notice the space after a while because you're so used to it. Everyone knows where they've got to be and what they've got to do, so you don't bump into people. Claustrophobia has never been a problem.

What were your day-to-day duties on board?

Although I was a weapons engineer, the duties I had included the ship's control, so I was a Helmsman as well. I also went on tube space watch and maintained the weapons system.

What operations were you involved in?

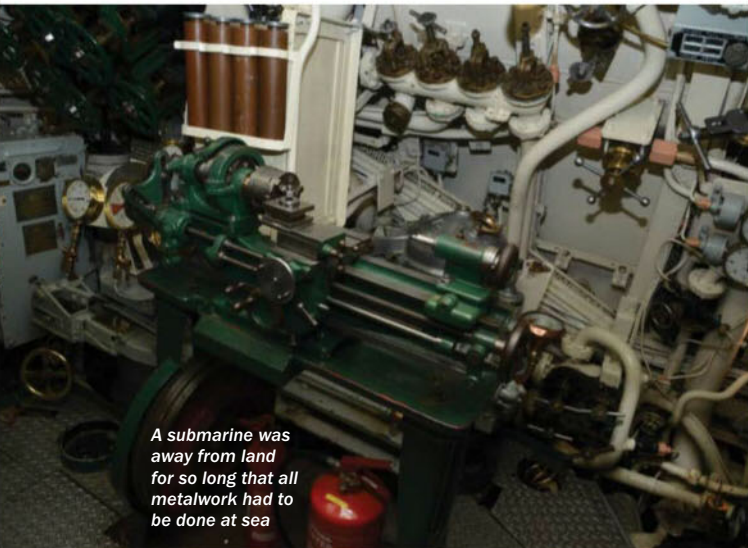
Submarines in the Cold War era were constantly on the look out for Soviet submarines, and in fact any other submarines. If we came across them we would record their sound and follow them as far as the rules of engagement would allow. We'd also practice in case the Cold War went hot by surveying ship's movements and gathering intelligence.

Could you tell us about the extensive refit HMS Alliance went through in 1958?

Alliance was built for Far East operations during World War Two. She missed the end of the war, so by the time she was in operations, it was the Cold War where other submarines became the enemy. Therefore, the Royal Navy submarines were streamlined to become quieter and more difficult to detect.

How did diesel-electric submarines cope in the nuclear age?

They were for a different purpose. Diesel-electric submarines are much quieter when they've dived compared with nuclear subs and are harder to detect. Diesel-electric submarines made excellent listening platforms but they were much, much slower.



A submarine was away from land for so long that all metalwork had to be done at sea



The Duke of Cambridge came aboard on 12 May 2014 to observe the inner workings of Britain's last surviving Second-World War submarine



Rex Features

BOOK REVIEWS

History of War's pick of the newest military history titles waiting for you on the shelves

THE BRIGHT SQUADRONS: A TRUE STORY OF LOVE AND WAR

Authors Barbara Harper-Nelson & Geneviève Monneris **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £18.99 **Released** Out now

A COLLECTION OF LETTERS AND DIARIES THAT TELL THE STORY OF AN REAL-LIFE AFFAIR BETWEEN A BRITISH GIRL AND A FRENCH AIRMAN

While history buffs pour over the politics and mechanics of war – the technology, the numbers, the campaigns and strategies – there is a more human side to every conflict. And not just in the tragedy that comes with war, but the smaller details, the things that nearly everyone can relate to in their normal, everyday lives. The Bright Squadrons tells one such story, with the Second World War as a backdrop to an affair between a young woman from Liverpool and French airman fighting with the RAF. Though it sounds like the plot to a weepy novel, it is in fact remarkably real – and at times emotionally powerful stuff.

Bright Squadrons documents the relationship between Barbara Rigby and Francis Usai, told through Barbara's diary entries and the couple's many hundreds of letters, compiled by Barbara herself (now Barbara Harper-Nelson) and French filmmaker Geneviève Monneris.

Usai, having been exiled from France following the German invasion, arrived at the Liverpool docks in December 1943. Like many of the foreigners who came to these shores during the war, Usai was popular with young British women. "[Francis] caused a sensation with his uniform and his dark, Mediterranean complexion," writes Barbara in her diary. "Thanks to his good looks and charm, we were able to get some tomatoes." It's this kind of detail that makes Bright Squadrons such a charming read; in many of their exchanges, Barbara and Usai are less bothered with the state of the world and seeing off Hitler,

than they are the things that really would have troubled young people of wartime Britain, such as the nightlife or, indeed, how many tomatoes they could get away with.

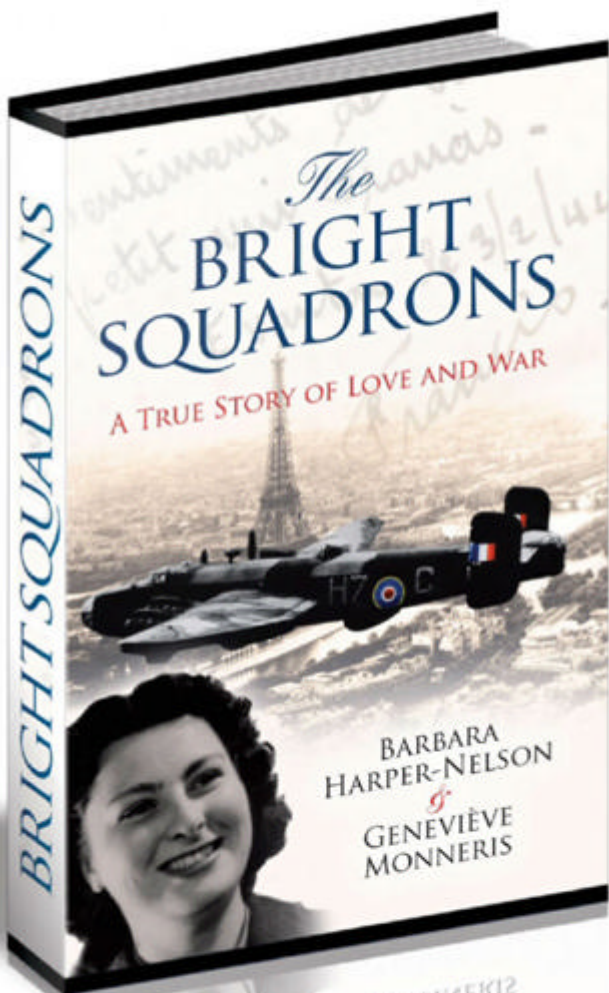
That's not to say the book doesn't touch on the harsh realities of WWII. Though framed in the letters and diaries as an exotic young romantic, Usai was a bomber pilot. Shortly after docking in Liverpool he was posted to Scotland for training and then to Bomber Command in York. As part of a seven-man Halifax bomber crew, Usai was involved in dangerous missions. Between 1944 and '45, over 200 men from the French squadrons in York were killed – half of the French crew stationed there.

Even Usai himself was shot down, which saw Barbara receive a terrifying telegram informing her that he had gone missing. Thankfully, he survived – and survived the rest of the war, though their relationship ended shortly after VE-Day – but there's a sense that Usai was never quite the same after his experience, traumatised like so many others who experienced the conflict firsthand.

"I don't know whether my nerves are bad or not," he writes in a letter to Barbara. "I'm not upset by anything in particular, darling, it's just that I feel strange... Only with you do I feel relaxed."

This is where the book is most powerful, when the frivolities of young love are interrupted by the sorrowful reality of death on the battlefield. Focused very much on the relationship between Barbara and Usai, The Bright Squadrons won't be a book for everyone; it does, however, offer an insight to how the Second World War affected lives in different, yet equally powerful ways.

“This is where the book is most powerful, when the frivolities of young love are interrupted by the sorrowful reality of death on the battlefield”



IF YOU LIKE THIS TRY...

GOING SOLO

ROALD DAHL

Dahl's true memoir of traveling to Africa, then joining the war as a squadron pilot in the Royal Air Force. It documents the bizarre people he meets on his journey, and his involvement in the war, including his part in the Battle of Athens, 1941.

UFOS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR: PHANTOM AIRSHIPS, BALLOONS, AIRCRAFT & OTHER MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENA

Writer Nigel Watson **Publisher** The History Press **Price** £9.99 **Released** Out now

A COMPREHENSIVE LOOKS AT THE MANY UNEXPLAINED SIGHTINGS OF MYSTERIOUS AIRCRAFT DURING WWI

Here's a book that in the wrong hands could have bordered the fantastical and ludicrous. Thankfully, author Nigel Watson knows his stuff when it comes to UFO sightings, having written books on the subject before. And the First World War proves an interesting time during which to investigate the phenomena; after all, air travel was still in its infancy, creating a new raft of experiences man had yet to fully master or understand – altitudes, strange lights, the effects of turbulence. Watson's book is the first to admit that not all sightings of UFOs that happened during this time would have been genuinely unexplainable – just misunderstood. However, the book also makes a good case for a few genuinely bizarre events, helped by newspaper cuttings and other illustrations.

The book begins earlier than the war itself, detailing early "airship scares" in the US, Denmark and Sweden between 1908 and '09.

At this point, it seems nations were less likely to blame UFOs on alien invaders than on Japanese spies, which reveals a great deal about the state of a world racked with international tension and on the cusp of war.

From there the book spins through the years surrounding WWI, detailing UFO scares around the world, including Britain, New Zealand, and Canada (home of the amusingly named "scareoplane" sightings). Though the book's eye-popping title suggests something slightly more otherworldly is afoot, for the most part it seems an interesting collection of stories about panic over seeing a new, seemingly alien technology for the first time.

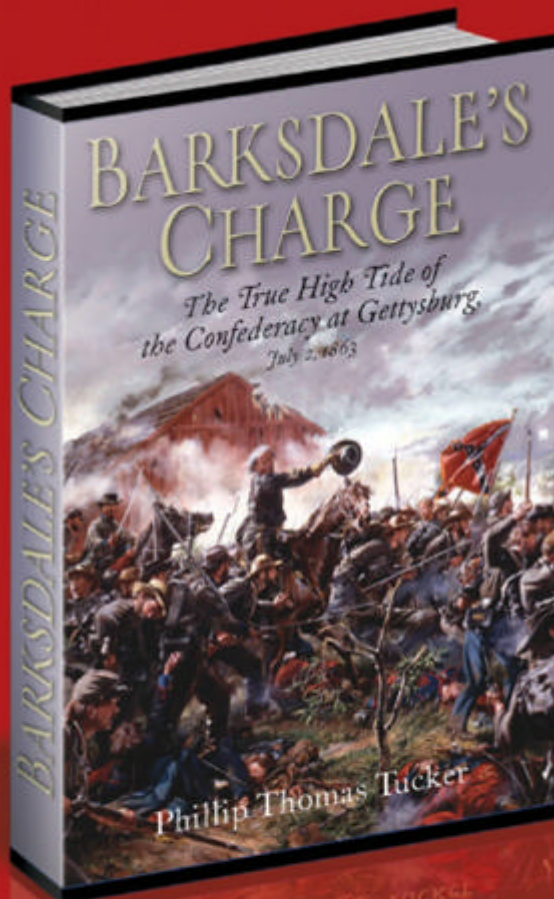
There are attempts to link this social history with more supernatural forces, such as the mysterious disappearance of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, though it largely serves as a brief glimpse at an obscure historical curiosity.



BARKSDALE'S CHARGE

Writer Phillip Thomas Tucker **Publisher** Casemate **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

AN IN-DEPTH ACCOUNT OF HOW GENERAL WILLIAM BARKSDALE BROUGHT THE CONFEDERACY CLOSE TO VICTORY



History, as they say, is written by the winners. In the case of Gettysburg, even the losers have had a staked a claim to greatness. As author Phillips Thomas Tucker confirms, General Pickett's charge of the third day of the battle has been immortalised as the Confederacy's "high tide". But his book details what he considers to be the real triumph (or near triumph, at least) of the Confederate forces: the charge of General Barksdale the day before, during which his Mississippi Brigade had the Federals hanging on by just a thread, close to what could have been the most significant breakthrough in the Confederate war effort, potentially splitting the Union line and turning the tide entirely.

It's safe to say the author has an issue to resolve with this book, claiming that Northern historians preference the Pickett story as it details a more decisive victory for the Federal army. However, this book

is much more than a 260-page rant; Tucker's argument is masterfully constructed, supported by meticulous research and detail, outlining one of the US Civil War's truly fascinating events.

Slightly problematic is Tucker's style, which is incredibly dense and packed with detail that some readers may find unnecessarily distracting. However, there's a flow to the book that's undeniably dramatic and captivating, and readers may be hard-pressed to not find themselves quietly supporting the Mississippi Brigade's effort to break through and claim victory. This is helped by the book's human touch, detailing stories not just of the major players, but smaller, less powerful names fighting in the battlefield. It's a testament to Tucker's delivery – not to mention the fighting spirit of Barksdale and his men – that this story is so rich and exciting, regardless of the outcome.

“Tucker's argument is masterfully constructed, supported by meticulous research and detail”

1943: THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE AIR IN PHOTOGRAPHS

A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE YEAR THAT SAW THE TIDE OF THE WAR CHANGE, GIVING THE ALLIES FREEDOM TO FLY OVER PARTS OF EUROPE FOR THE FIRST TIME AND PREPARE FOR D-DAY

Writer L. Archard **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £15.99 **Released** Out now

Continuing this excellent series, L. Archard's book chronicles a pivotal time in the Second World War. As with the others, it doesn't go into major depth of its chosen year and the key events, instead offering a general overview. Though it may be relatively familiar territory for more seasoned readers of WWII history, it's a wholly satisfying look at a popular aspect of the Second World War.

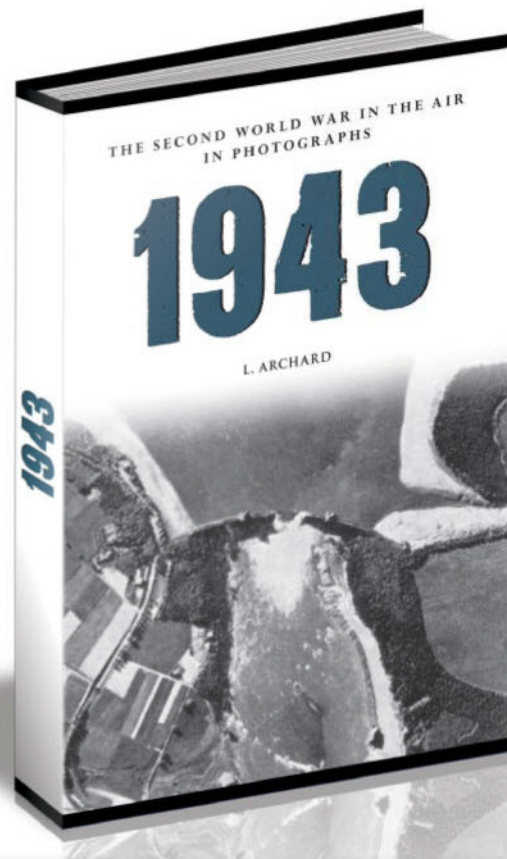
Also like the other books in the series, a brief introduction looks at the crucial developments and important facts, in this case the bomber campaign that began in January 1943. This includes the famous Dambuster and Ploesti raids, but also lesser known raids, such as those against Regensburg, and the RAF campaign against the industrial facilities in the Ruhr Valley.

From there the book is predominantly visual, combining photography, maps, and

poster artwork from the time (most of which delivers ultra-patriotic, propaganda-heavy spin on the events).

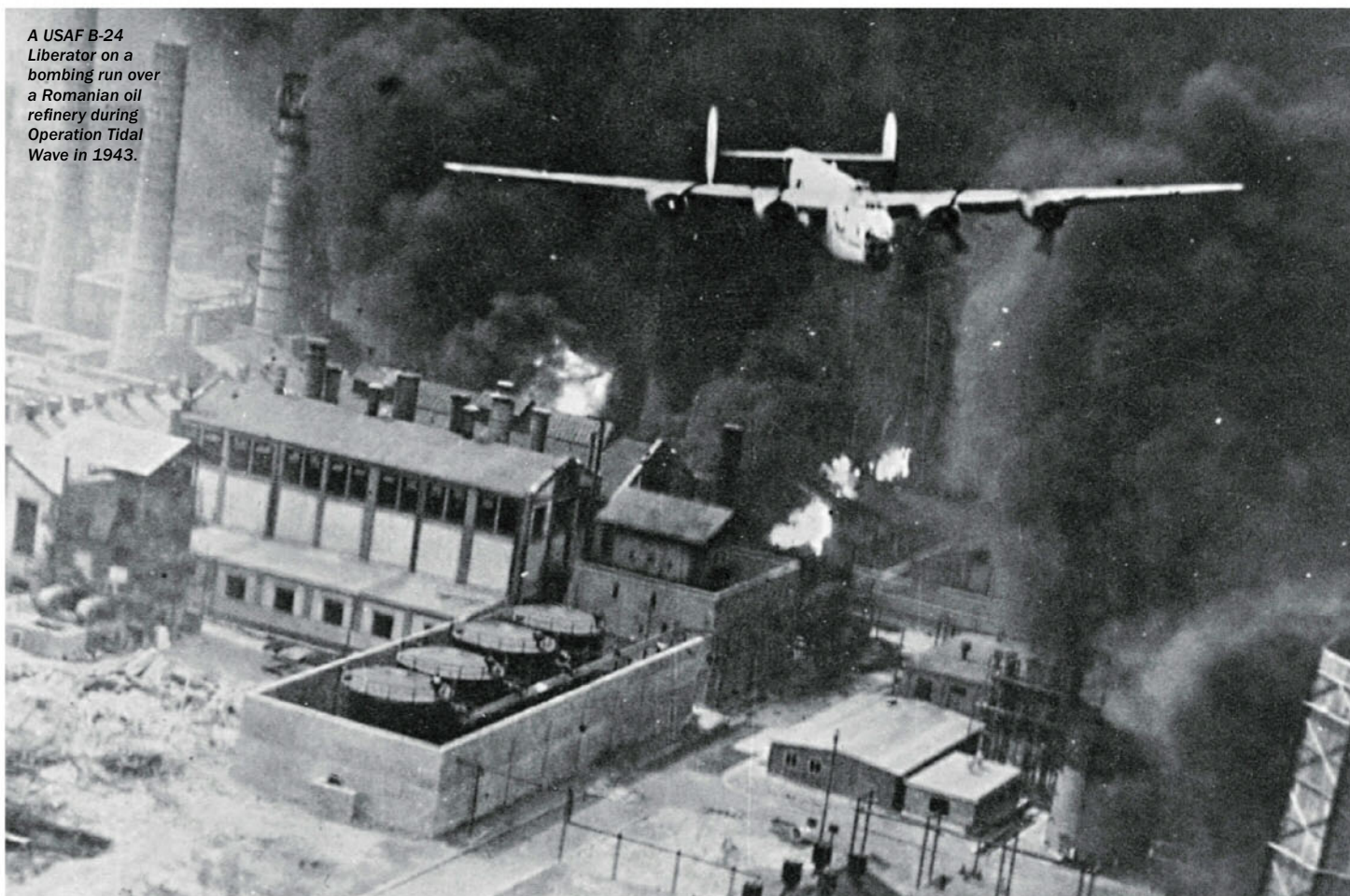
There are some particularly eye-catching inclusions: pictures of cities taken from the air during raids; aircraft such as the American P-38 fighters in all their glory; a German pilot studying maps ahead of their next mission; clusters of incendiary bombs falling through the air towards Hamburg's U-boat construction yards; and a startling image of a ship, which due to its cargo of ammunition, exploding as bombs are dropped on it from hundreds of feet above.

For experts, there won't be a great deal more to discover or learn from the book. But as with the others in the series, it's the kind of book you'll find yourself turning to for a handy reference rather than reading through from start to finish.



“...it makes for an excellent starting point and is overall rather informative”

A USAF B-24 Liberator on a bombing run over a Romanian oil refinery during Operation Tidal Wave in 1943.





The Yugoslav National Army withdrawing from Kosovo's capital of Pristina in 1999.

WINNING WARS AMONGST THE PEOPLE: CASE STUDIES IN ASYMMETRIC CONFLICT

A LOOK AT HOW CONFLICT WITHIN THE STATE – BETWEEN FELLOW CITIZENS AND STATE AUTHORITY – HAS BECOME THE DOMINANT FORM OF WARFARE

Writer Peter A. Kiss **Publisher** Potomac Books

Price £17.99 **Released** Out now

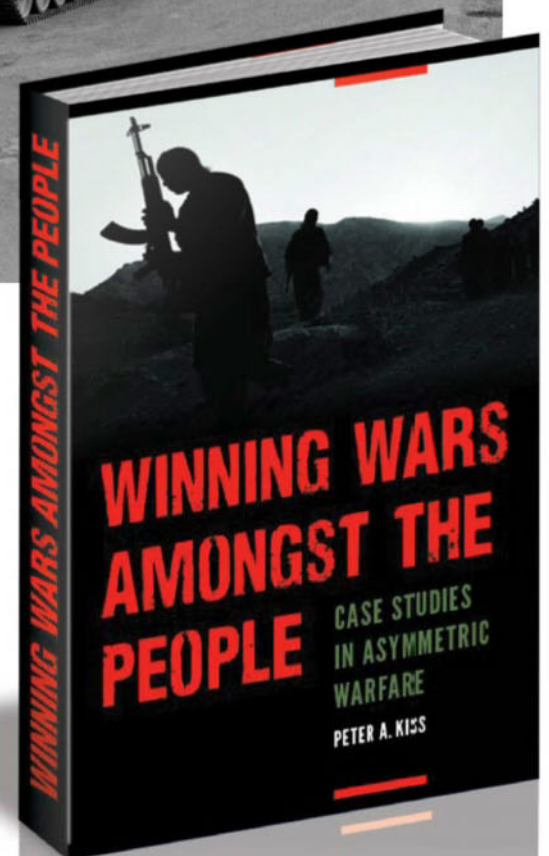
Author Peter A. Kiss served 20 years in the US Army, giving him an extremely insightful vantage point. As a parachute infantryman and intelligence specialist, he got firsthand experience in learning the tactics of “asymmetrical warfare”, the topic of this dense, highly political book.

Asymmetrical warfare, also dubbed “fourth generation warfare”, is the result of a paradigm shift in armed conflict, which Kiss claims to have occurred since the end of the Second World War. According to the book, this has become the dominant form of conflict, and is

defined not by warfare between states, but by that between non-state belligerents and the state, in a challenge to power and authority.

To illustrate his point, Kiss brings together five case studies of asymmetrical conflict, including Rhodesia, 1962-80, Punjab, 1980-94, Kosovo, 1996-99, France, 2005, and Hungary, 2014. Through these case studies he attempts to explain the key differences between conventional and asymmetrical warfare, its political, economic, and social characteristics, and how the state can prepare for conflict while observing its own customs.

“As a parachute infantryman and intelligence specialist, he got firsthand experience in learning the tactics of “asymmetrical warfare”



Interest in this book will largely depend on knowledge of the case studies included, and on advanced theories on domestic conflict and politics. It is, as should be clear from the title alone, specialist reading. While the case studies do present some material that will appeal to those with just a passing interest in modern war history, there remains an underlying political agenda, and understanding the theory is dependent on graphs and numbers, which makes the book better suited for academic research than general reading.

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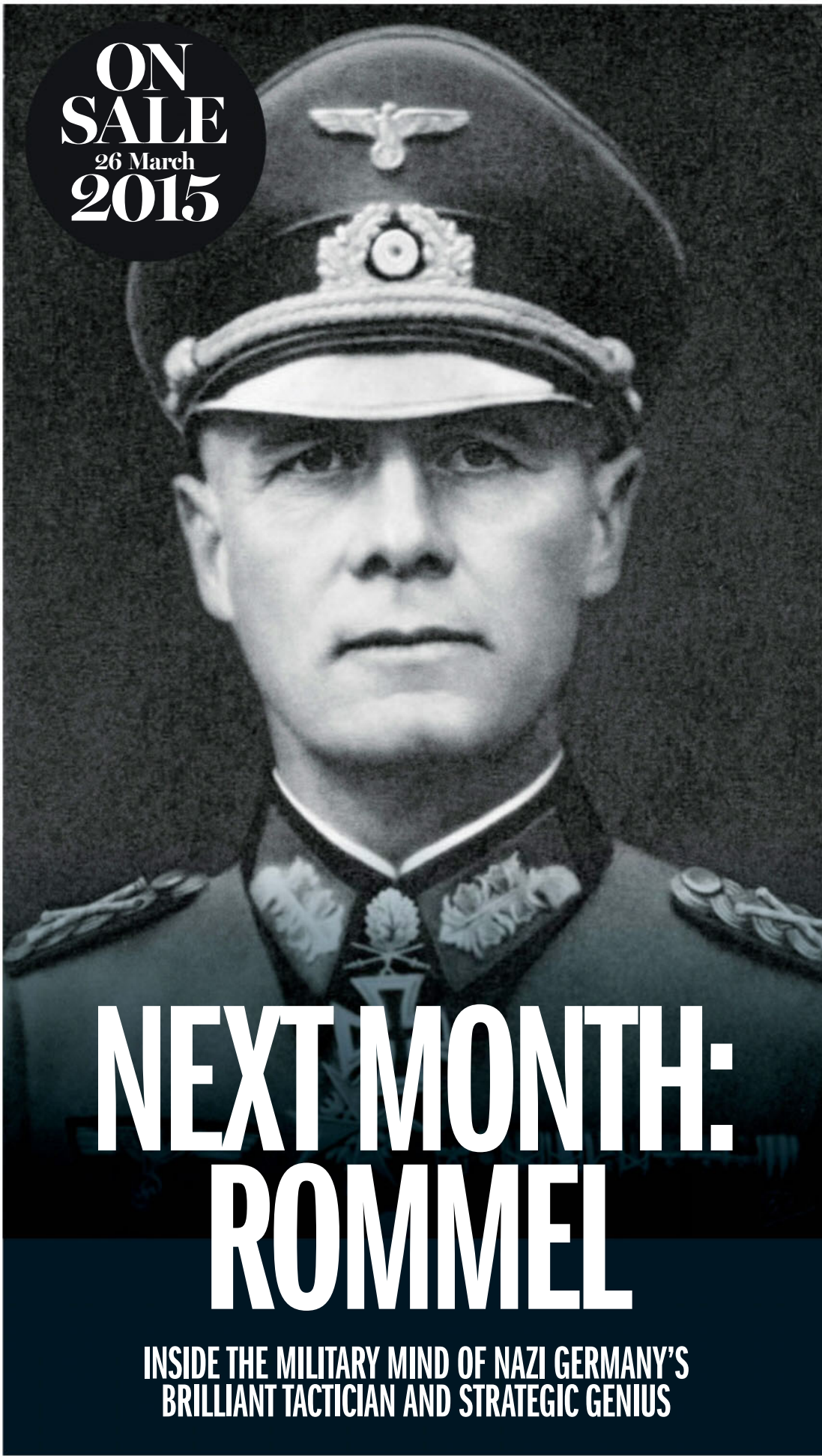
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NEXT MONTH: ROMMEL

**INSIDE THE MILITARY MIND OF NAZI GERMANY'S
BRILLIANT TACTICIAN AND STRATEGIC GENIUS**

HISTORY of WAR

Imagine Publishing Ltd
Richmond House, 33 Richmond Hill
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6EZ
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586200
Web: www.imagine-publishing.co.uk
www.greatdigitalmags.com
www.historyanswers.co.uk

Magazine team

Deputy Editor Tim Williamson

☎ 01202 586 200
frontline@imagine-publishing.co.uk

Staff Writer Jack Griffiths

Senior Designer Curtis Fermor-Dunman

Photographer James Sheppard

Editor in Chief James Hoare

Senior Art Editor Helen Harris

Publishing Director Aaron Asadi

Head of Design Ross Andrews

Contributors

Josh Barnett, Tom Fordy, Will Lawrence, Miguel B Miranda, Matthew Moss, Jack Parsons, Amy Squibb, Gavin Thomas, Steve Wright

Images

Acute Graphics, Alamy, The Art Agency, Corbis, Ed Crooks, DK Images, FreeVectorMaps.com, Getty, Rebekka Hearl, Alex Pang, Giuseppe Rava, Thinkstock

Advertising

Digital or printed media packs are available on request.

Head of Sales Hang Deretz

☎ 01202 586442
hang.deretz@imagine-publishing.co.uk

Account Manager Lee Mussell

☎ 01202 586424
lee.mussell@imagine-publishing.co.uk

International

History of War is available for licensing. Contact the International department to discuss partnership opportunities.

Head of International Licensing Cathy Blackman

☎ +44 (0) 1202 586401
licensing@imagine-publishing.co.uk

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Head of Subscriptions Sharon Todd
subscriptions@imagine-publishing.co.uk

Circulation

Head of Circulation Darren Pearce

☎ 01202 586200

Production

Production Director Jane Hawkins

☎ 01202 586200

Founder

Group Managing Director Damian Butt

Printing & Distribution

Wyndeham Peterborough, Storey's Bar Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE1 5YS

Distributed in the UK, Eire and ROW: Marketforce, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London, SE1 0SU
☎ 0203 148 3300

Distributed in Australia by: Network Services (a division of Bauer Media Group), Level 21 Civic Tower, 66-68 Goulburn Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
☎ +61 2 8667 5288

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IMAGINE
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ISSN 2054-376X
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WAR IN NUMBERS

VIETNAM 1965-75

Sobering figures from the USA's insurmountably brutal conflict

61%
of US casualties were aged
21
or younger

**VOLUNTEERS
MADE UP**
66%
of the US force in
Vietnam &
70%
of overall US casualties

40,934

American soldiers reported

KIA

including 2,586 members of USAF

The average age of US casualties

23.11

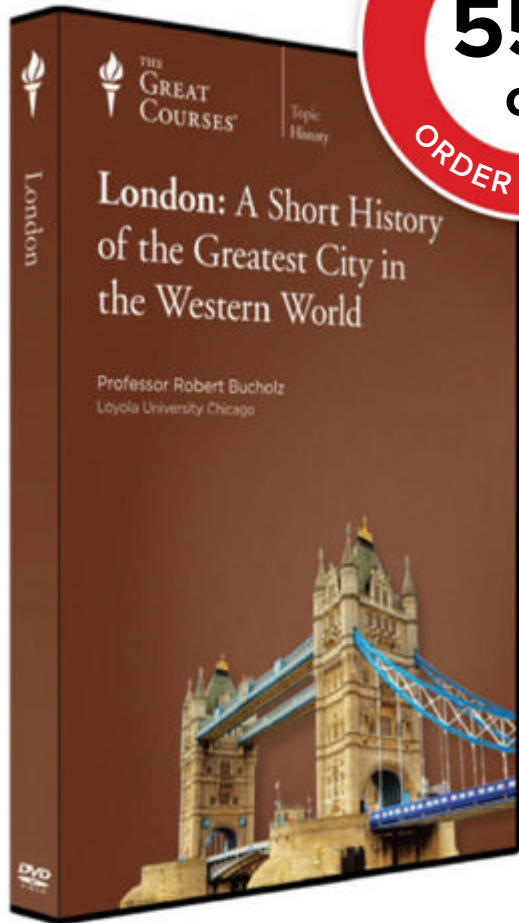
9,087,000

▲ military personnel served on active duty between 1965-1975

140,000

▲ people were evacuated during the fall of Saigon





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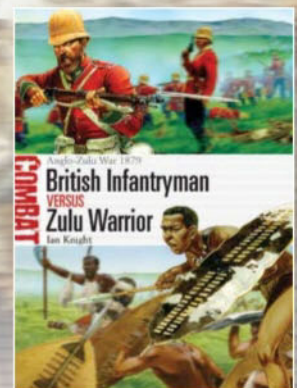
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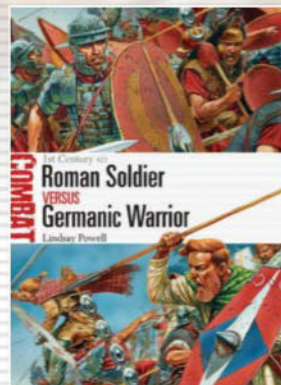
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